

THE

MAP OF EUROPE BY TREATY.

THE
MAP OF EUROPE BY TREATY;

SHOWING THE VARIOUS

POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL CHANGES

WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE

SINCE THE GENERAL PEACE OF 1814.

With Numerous Maps and Notes.

VOL. IV.

1875 to 1891.

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P R E F A C E.

THE first three volumes of this work were published in 1875. Its object, as stated in the Preface, was to show the various political and territorial changes which had taken place in Europe between 1814, the date of the termination of the French Revolutionary War, and 1875, the date of the publication of the work; in other words, to show how the "Map of Europe" had been changed by Treaties or other International Arrangements since the general European settlement which was made by the Great Powers at the time of the conclusion of the Vienna Congress Treaty, in 1815. Hence the title of the work, "THE MAP OF EUROPE BY TREATY."

The Documents were arranged throughout the work in chronological order; a distinctive number was given to each, and where a reference was made in any Document to a previous one, its number was inserted in the text, so that it might be the more readily referred to.

Explanatory Notes were also added, wherever found necessary, to show how an arrangement made by any particular Treaty or other Document had been altered by a subsequent arrangement.

Each Treaty was preceded by a Table of Contents to the various subjects contained in it, and each Article of the Treaty by a similar description of its contents, whilst the subject of each Document was further shown by a heading to each page, giving its purport or the name by which it was generally known.

Declarations of War were inserted, in order to show the causes which led to the different wars; an abstract was given of the proceedings of all European Conferences; whilst the full text was given of the several Treaties of Peace, Alliance, Boundary, &c. To the latter Documents MAPS were added in each case, showing how the Boundaries of States had been altered by the preceding War. The entire work was published in English, and an elaborate and carefully classified INDEX was added, giving a reference to every

subject mentioned in the Treaties and other Documents contained in the work.

No sooner, however, was the work published than heavy clouds began to appear again on the political horizon. In July, 1875, an Insurrection broke out in Bosnia and the Herzegovina. The Prince of Servia, in a speech delivered in the National Assembly, in the following month, called public attention to the absolute necessity which existed for the introduction of stringent Reforms into those Provinces of the Ottoman Empire. Reforms were promised by the Sultan. The Courts of Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia expressed their views as to the course to be pursued to localize the conflict and diminish its dangers and calamities by preventing Servia and Montenegro from participating in it. These views were embodied in a Dispatch addressed by Count Andrassy to Count Buol, and was known by the name of the "Andrassy Note." This Note was communicated to the British Government, which returned a reply to it, and stated that the British Ambassador at Constantinople would be instructed to give a general support to the proposals of the Austro-Hungarian Government, and to act with his colleagues for that purpose. In May of the following year, another Insurrectionary Movement took place in Bulgaria, and on the 13th of that month, the Courts of Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia again concerted amongst themselves as to the measures to be taken to avert the danger which then threatened to disturb the Peace of Europe. Their views were embodied in a Joint Memorandum, which, having been signed at Berlin, was known as the "Berlin Memorandum." This was also communicated to the British Government, and a reply returned to it, in which it was stated that Her Majesty's Government found themselves unable to co-operate in the Policy which the three Governments had invited them to pursue. Every endeavour was nevertheless made by the British Government also to preserve Peace in Eastern Europe, but all efforts made to do so failed. War was declared by Servia against Turkey on the 30th June, 1876, and two days later Montenegro also declared War against Turkey. Conferences were then held at Constantinople between the Representatives of the Six Great Powers, with the object of re-establishing Peace between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro, and for the amelioration of the general situation in the East. Various recommendations were made by the Conference, but the Porte refused to carry them into effect, and the

Conference was dissolved. Peace was shortly afterwards concluded between Turkey and Servia ; but in April, 1877, War was declared by Russia against Turkey, which was followed by a Declaration by Roumania, asserting her Independence. A Manifesto was also issued by the Prince of Servia, proclaiming a renewal of the War with Turkey. The whole of Eastern Europe then burst into a blaze. After a sanguinary war, a Preliminary Treaty of Peace was signed between Russia and Turkey at SAN STEFANO, for the settlement, not only of the pecuniary and territorial claims of Russia against Turkey, but also of the affairs of Montenegro, Servia, Bulgaria, Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and various other matters. The other Powers of Europe, however, declined to recognize the right of Russia to settle these various important questions alone with Turkey, and a CONGRESS was, in consequence, held at BERLIN, between the Representatives of the Six Great Powers of Europe and Turkey, for the settlement of the affairs in the East. It sat from the 13th June till the 13th July, 1878, and at the latter date a Treaty, known as the TREATY OF BERLIN, was signed, dealing with all the questions which had been dealt with by the Treaty of San Stefano. In June of the same year the island of CYPRUS was placed by the Sultan, conditionally, in the occupation and under the Administration of Great Britain.

By the Treaty of Berlin, the Independence of SERVIA, ROUMANIA, and MONTENEGRO was recognized, subject to certain specified conditions. BULGARIA was also recognised as an autonomous tributary Principality under the Suzerainty of the Sultan, and it was agreed that the Province of EASTERN ROUMELIA, formed under a Christian Governor-General, whilst still placed under the direct political and military authority of the Sultan, should only be so under conditions of administrative autonomy.

The part of BESSARABIA, which had been taken from Russia at the conclusion of the Crimean War, was restored to her, and she thereby recovered her position on the DANUBE. She also acquired from Turkey a further increase of territory in ASIA.

It was also recorded in this Treaty that the Emperor of Russia had declared it to be his intention to constitute BATOOM a Free Port, essentially commercial ; but, in July, 1886, His Majesty announced it to be his intention no longer to be bound by that arrangement, which drew forth a Protest from the British Government against this infraction of the Treaty of Berlin.

European Commissioners were appointed to define the new

Boundaries which had been assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to SERBIA, MONTENEGRO, BULGARIA, EASTERN ROUMELIA, ROUMANIA, GREECE, and RUSSIA IN ASIA, as well as to fix the Boundary between Turkey and Persia in the territory of KHOTOUR.

In June and July, 1880, Conferences were held at Berlin respecting the rectification of the TURCO-GREEK Frontier, and on the 24th May, 1881, a Convention was signed between the Six Powers and Turkey for the settlement of that question. By this Convention, Greece acquired possession of the Province of THESSALY.

On the 28th May, 1881, an Additional Act was signed, respecting the Navigation of the DANUBE. In February and March, 1883, Conferences upon the same subject were held in London, between the Representatives of the Six Powers and Turkey, and on the 10th May, 1883, a Treaty between the same Powers was signed, relative to the Navigation of that River, when the powers of the European Commission were extended to Ibraila. In 1882, 1884, 1885, Conferences were held between the Representatives of the European Powers, relative to the affairs of EGYPT and the SUEZ CANAL, and in the latter year, Conventions on the subject were concluded.

On the 14th November, 1885, War was declared by Servia against Bulgaria, arising mainly out of a dispute respecting the possession of certain lands near BREGOVO, on the River Timok. A Treaty of Peace was signed on the 3rd March, 1886, and the Bregovo dispute was subsequently settled by a Mixed Commission.

The contents of the PROTOCOLS of these various CONFERENCES have been carefully analysed and the subjects discussed at each noted in the Index. Full texts of all Treaties are given in English, on the same principle as was adopted in the earlier volumes.

MAPS have also been added, showing the Boundaries which were proposed by Russia to be given to MONTENEGRO, SERBIA, BULGARIA, and RUSSIA IN ASIA, by the Treaty of San Stefano, as well as those which were assigned to BULGARIA, EASTERN ROUMELIA, MONTENEGRO, SERBIA, ROUMANIA, RUSSIA IN ASIA, &c., by the Treaty of Berlin. Some of these Boundaries were afterwards altered; other Maps are therefore given, showing the Boundaries which were subsequently assigned to MONTENEGRO, to GREECE, and to Bulgaria on the Danube near SILISTRIA, whilst others are

added to illustrate the delimitation of the territory of KHOTOUR between Turkey and Persia, the course of the River DANUBE AND ITS BRANCHES between Ibraila and the sea, and the position of BREGOVO.

A GENERAL MAP OF EUROPE was given in vol. I, p. 274, showing the Boundaries of Europe, as fixed by the Vienna Congress Treaty of 9th June, 1815; a similar Map was given in vol. III, p. 1976, showing the territorial divisions of Europe in 1875, and a similar Map is given in the present volume, at p. 3204, showing the territorial divisions as they now stand (1891).

The most important political, territorial, and other events which have taken place in WESTERN EUROPE since 1875 have been—

The Modification of the Treaty between Austria and Prussia of 1866 respecting the Northern Districts of SCHLESWIG.

The Abolition of the Free Ports of HAMBURG and BREMEN.

The Demolition of the FORTRESS OF LUXEMBURG, in accordance with the Treaty of 11th May, 1867.

The Cession of the Island of HELIGOLAND by Great Britain to Germany; and

The Separation of the GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBURG from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, consequent upon the death of the King, Grand Duke.

As the question of the NAVIGATION of European RIVERS and of the suppression of the AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE were dealt with by the Vienna Congress in 1815, it has been thought not out of place to give in the present volume—

The Declaration which was signed by the Representatives of the European Powers at Berlin, on the 26th February, 1885, for the extension of the principles of 1815 to the Navigation of the RIVERS CONGO and NIGER; and

The Declaration which was signed by the same Powers at the same Conference, for the Suppression of the AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE by Land as well as by Sea.

It has not been thought advisable to break the series of Documents relating to the events which have taken place in Eastern Europe since 1875 by inserting the few relating to Western

Europe under their proper dates, and they have therefore been inserted in the APPENDIX.

In vol. III, p. 3075, a List was given of the Treaties, &c., concluded between Great Britain and Foreign Powers, between 1814 and 1875, for the Maintenance of the PEACE OF EUROPE, and a similar List is given in the present volume (p. 3291) of the Treaties, &c., concluded between the same Powers, between 1876 and 1891, with the same object.

The classified INDEX of SUBJECTS given at the end of the volume is compiled upon the same principle as that given in vol. III.

I would only wish to add that, although this work is compiled, as far as possible, from authentic Documents, and with Official sanction, I am alone responsible for the accuracy of its contents in every particular.

EDWARD HERTSLET.

Foreign Office,
1st April, 1891.

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ERRATA.

Page 2587, last line but one, for **No. 490** read **No. 488**.

" 2848, last line, for 2451 read 2851.

" 2865, last line but three, for **No. 625** read **No. 623**.

" 2961, last line, for **No. 585** read **No. 586**.

" 2965, last line, for **No. 585** read **No. 586**.

No. 452.—*SPEECH of Prince Milan Obrénovitch IV, on the Opening of the Session of the National Assembly of Servia. Events in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Kragouïevatz, 29th August, 1875.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Gentlemen,

I HAVE always been pleased to find myself in the midst of the Representatives of my people, but I have to-day more than ever reason for being satisfied at seeing myself surrounded by you. For a long time no National Assembly has been convoked under circumstances so grave, and if hitherto I have found the need of your patriotic aid to accomplish my difficult task, to-day, more than ever, I feel the necessity of this support.

Gentlemen,

Our frontier populations have lately been disturbed in their domestic calm. Some, indeed, have been forced to leave their fields and take up arms to guard the security of the country on our southern and eastern frontiers.

You are aware that the events which have taken place in the neighbouring provinces of the Principality, in Bosnia and the Herzegovina,* have created the difficult situation in which Servia finds herself to-day. The population of these provinces, despairing of seeing the end of their sufferings, have risen, arms in hand, to defend themselves from the abuses under which they suffer, notwithstanding the humane and generous intentions of His Majesty the Sultan.

In taking measures with a view to the pacification of these Provinces, the Imperial Government is deploying at the same time a large military force on our frontiers. These concentrations of troops round Servia augment still more the gravity of a situation already difficult in itself. Whilst our people see a menace in these concentrations, and demand from the Government means of defence, the refugees, Christians as well as Mahommedans, fleeing from fire and sword, are seeking an asylum within our territory, thus bringing to our country and its authorities new anxieties, and imposing on it immense sacrifices.

* The Insurrection broke out in July, 1875.

[Events in Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

This state of things if prolonged would end by becoming intolerable. But since the Sublime Porte, in agreement with the Guaranteeing Powers,* has undertaken the work of pacification, we may hope that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan and the High Guaranteeing Powers will, in their wisdom, find a happy solution, which will definitively bring back tranquillity into those countries, whose lot cannot be indifferent to us.

In fact, Servia, in so far as it is the immediate neighbour of these Provinces, suffers from a double point of view, both moral and economical, from the periodical insurrections of their inhabitants; she is, consequently, not the less interested that this state of things should be put an end to once for all. I shall, therefore, use every means to contribute, so far as our feeble means allow, so that the result arrived at may give back durable tranquillity to these unsettled countries.

Gentlemen,

Although nominated but a few days ago, the Ministers whom I have assembled around me in these grave circumstances, will submit to you nevertheless some projects of laws tending to improve our national institutions, to wit, a law destined to increase the securities for personal safety, a law for the extension of the liberty of the press, and a law for the extension of communal self-government. In addressing itself as soon as possible to these important matters, the Government only anticipates a desire expressed in preceding Assemblies, and I doubt not but that a satisfactory solution will be the result of your deliberations.

I am happy, lastly, to be able to acquaint you with an event which brings my private feelings into harmony with my duties as a Sovereign. A descendant of that race to which the Servian nation has always shown itself devoted, I have been led to think that, while realizing a personal wish, I might hope also to satisfy the wishes of my people by choosing, as companion of my life and throne, Nathalie Péetrovna, belonging by birth to the Russian nation, to which ties of religion and race, as well as numerous and precious memories in the past attach us.

* Consuls were delegated by the British, Austrian, French, German, Italian, and Russian Embassies at Constantinople, in August, 1875, to proceed to the scene of the Insurrection and to inform the Insurgents that they must expect no countenance or support from the Powers, and at the same time to advise them to desist from Hostilities and represent their Complaints to a Commission; but the Mission, which terminated in the following month, was unsuccessful.

[Events in Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

The National Assembly is open. May wisdom preside over your labours, so that you may worthily accomplish your difficult task. May concord reign amongst you—that concord which, under difficult circumstances, has never failed either in the Assembly or between it and my Government. This must be the starting point, the most solid foundation of our strength and of our future.

Kragouïévatz, August 29, 1875.

No. 453.—*ADDRESS from the National Assembly of Serbia, in reply to the Speech from the Throne of 29th August, 1875. Kragouïevatz, 7th September, 1875.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

THE National Assembly seeing in its midst its beloved Sovereign constantly occupied with the advancement of our dear country, and appealing to the patriotic support of the Assembly under the present serious and difficult circumstances, the national representatives hasten to respond with that patriotism and devotion which your Highness has a right to expect from the National Assembly, and which has always been displayed by the Servian people towards the glorious house of the Obrénovitch.

Highness, the position in which Serbia finds herself at the present time is in truth a difficult one. As your Highness has said, our frontier populations are a prey to anxiety. The concentration of a great military force on our frontier by the Sublime Porte, which thus assumes a menacing attitude towards Serbia, has torn part of our brethren from their fields and from their homes, and has compelled them to guard in arms over the safety of our country on its southern and eastern frontiers.

The people of Serbia who have redeemed the land they dwell in with the sword and with their blood, have before their recollection the words contained in the Proclamation of your Highness of 1872, that “it would be a grave responsibility to lose even the least of the acquisitions of our fathers, and little to our credit to add nothing to them.” These words have remained deeply engraven in the hearts of all Servians. It is well to bear them in mind at the present moment. The circumstances are serious, but not less serious is the firm will of the Servian people to rise equal to the difficulties of their position. Accordingly, the National Assembly declares solemnly, in the name of the people of Serbia, that it is ready to protect its country, to defend its liberty, and to defend the inheritance of the great Milosch and of our ancestors. There is no sacrifice that Serbia is not prepared to make on the sacred altar of the country in order to attain this end. At the call of your Highness the people of Serbia will rise like one man to defend their beloved country.

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Highness, centuries of suffering have determined our brethren of Bosnia and of the Herzegovina to appeal to arms and to fight for their rights as men and as a nation.

The sight of their blood revolts our brotherly sentiments. Their cries of despair find a noble echo among other civilized nations. It is impossible that we should remain indifferent to their fate.

The National Assembly is filled with the deepest sense of gratitude for the efforts of your Highness to help to restore definitively tranquillity to these distracted countries, and to ensure a lasting contentment to our cruelly tried brethren.

In this patriotic path your Highness may also count entirely on the support of the people of Serbia. They are ready to put at your Highness' disposal all the means needful for the happy realization of this great work. The National Assembly, in name of the people of Serbia, give your Highness the assurance that, to this end also, it will not flinch from any sacrifice, being convinced that your Highness, together with the Government, will devise the means by which Serbia may best respond to her duty.

The National Assembly will deliberate on the long-expected projects of laws, mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. It will discuss them with all the attention due to their importance, and will make a point of legislating upon them during the present Session.

The Assembly, on its side, will also make some propositions, which it considers urgent, for the development of our national institutions. These propositions will have in view the modification and the completion of certain dispositions of the Constitution, both in the sense of extending Ministerial responsibility, and of adapting our legislation still more closely to the spirit of our national life and to its wants, as well as of arriving at a mode of simplifying our judicial and administrative system.

The people of Serbia have learnt with feelings of the greatest pleasure that your Highness has made choice of a consort, and has presented us with a Princess in the person of Nathalie Pétrovna, of Russian origin, and consequently our kinswoman. Nathalie Pétrovna will adorn the Throne, and at the same time ensure the dynasty of the Obrénovitch, to which the people are so deeply attached.

The Assembly, while offering its heartiest congratulations to

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your Highness, can but join its voice to that of the whole people in imploring the Divine benediction upon the happy union of your Highness and of our future Princess Nathalie.

The Servian people, Highness, have ever felt the necessity of concord, but this want makes itself more especially felt under existing circumstances. The Assembly shares the conviction of your Highness that that is the starting point—the most solid basis of our strength and of our future.

Lastly, the National Assembly invokes the blessing of the Almighty upon your Highness and on our dear country; may He grant the strength necessary to the arm of Servia to raise aloft the standard of liberty; and, led on by the glorious Obrénovitch, the people of Servia will join in the universal cry of—

Long live Prince Milan M. Obrénovitch IV!

Long live Servia!

Kragouïévatz, 7th September, 1875.

No. 454.—*TURKISH IRADÉ promulgating Reforms.*
Constantinople, 2nd October, 1875.

[Referred to in the Andrassy Note of 30th December, 1875,
No. 456.]

TABLE.

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Collection of Taxes, &c.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

All the subjects of His Imperial Highness the Sultan, without distinction, are the constant object of his especial care and of his never-ceasing kindness. Those who wander from the path marked out by the duties of subjection, and who are guilty of illegal acts, they only will be deprived of the enjoyment of benefits, and they will have to blame themselves for it. This Imperial solicitude is now once more evinced with respect to the honest and peaceful agricultural populations of the Empire.

Reduction of Tithes.

In the first place, the immediate exemption of these populations from the quarter of the Tithe formerly established has been decreed.

Remission of Arrears of Taxes.

Further, all arrears of Taxes accumulated up to the date of the year 1289 (1872) have been abandoned for their advantage; the records of these arrears have been ordered to be cancelled in the Treasury Registers, and publicity will be given to this. There shall be excepted from this measure the farmers of taxes and sureties, and the well-to-do classes as regards their debts to the Treasury.

Administrative Councils.

The different communities are to be represented in the Administrative Councils by persons of their own selection, and really enjoying their confidence. The opinions of these latter persons, enunciated within the limits of the law and common sense, will be taken into serious consideration.

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Provincial Delegates.

The principle, according to which a delegation was authorized, in accordance with the 'Organic Law' of the Vilayets, to proceed to Constantinople, in order to submit the demands of the Annual General Assemblies of the provinces, and which has been abandoned for some time, has been re-established. Honourable persons possessing the consideration of their respective communities will be called in groups, and not in a mass, from the vilayets and the mutessarifats. The information gained, either by this or by other means, will serve as basis for the reforms and modifications to be adopted in furtherance of well-being, prosperity, and general progress.

Collection of Taxes, &c.

Agents and special controllers will be selected as required, to ensure the distribution and collection of the Taxes, in accordance with the existing law, and with the principles of justice.

Orders have just been transmitted to all the vilayets for the carrying out of these measures; investigations, with a view to transform the tithes into a land tax, are proceeding, so as to establish an equitable system, and one likely to meet requirements. It will moreover be sought to introduce an uniform fiscal system as regards the taxes.

It is decided to carry out these reforms gradually, as also those which relate to the organization of the Police.

May a Divine Providence grant a long life to our august and magnanimous Sovereign, for the glory of the Empire and the happiness of his subjects.

Constantinople, 2nd October, 1875.

No. 455.—*TURKISH FIRMAN*, granting Immunities and Favours to Ottoman Subjects.* 12th December, 1875.

[Referred to in the Andrassy Note of 30th December, 1875,
No. 456.]

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(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

To you, my Illustrious Vizier, Mahmoud Nédim Pasha,

CIVILISED States should consecrate their efforts to secure public rights. All the means which should combine for the security and the maintenance of this principle can be obtained only by a strict application of justice to all without distinction, and by a regular organisation of its administration. Individual interests are secured only by the order and prosperity of the country, private interests being closely associated with the general welfare.

Since our accession to the throne our Imperial intentions and sentiments, already brought to the knowledge of all, have had for their object, with the help of God, the greatness and glory of our Empire, the tranquillity and welfare of all classes of our subjects, and the development of progress for the benefit of the wealth and prosperity of our territories. In order to realise these intentions yet more completely we have resolved to grant

* A Turkish Circular to Ottoman Representatives at Foreign Courts was issued on the same day.

to all our subjects the immunities and reforms calculated to secure completely public confidence and to proclaim the same forthwith. In consequence, we decree, by virtue of our present Imperial Iradé, the application, by the grace of the Almighty, of the following measures :—

Judicial Reforms.

The security of public rights rests on the abstinence from all intermeddling of the executive power in the exercise of the judicial power, as well as in the laws prohibiting all abuses.

The institution of tribunals is not in itself sufficient to secure for them general confidence. The members of these tribunals must recommend themselves by actual merit, by the purity of their character, and by their integrity, as well as by acts in accordance with justice and equity.

Our High Court of Justice has been instituted for the purpose of uniting in itself all these conditions and qualities. Hence it is necessary to establish upon these bases its composition and its powers, and to introduce important amendments in various parts of its functions.

Precisely as the independence of the tribunals with regard to the executive power can alone secure their impartiality, so the immovability of the judges, save in the case of dismissal for some legitimate cause, can alone render them worthy of all confidence. The selection of these members of the courts must therefore be made in a manner to command the approval of all.

The functions attached to the presidency of the Cour de Cassation, which predominates over all the Nizamié tribunals—civil, correctional, criminal—are detached from those of our Ministry of Justice. The two sections of this Court will have a First President and a Vice-President. At the same time the Court of Appeal and the Tribunals of Commerce will be joined to our Ministry of Justice, which will permit the Ministry of Commerce to devote itself to the development of all that concerns commerce, industry, and agriculture. To this end the Court of Appeal attached to the High Court of Justice will unite in itself the functions of the Commercial Court of Appeal as well as those of the criminal tribunal. It will therefore consist of three Chambers, dealing respectively with correctional, civil, and commercial affairs. Presidents and Judges of this Court thus established, as well as of the Cour de Cassation, will be appointed

afresh, in order that they may fulfil all the conditions legally required.

The civil tribunals of first resort will be reformed and constituted in a similar manner. There will be delivered to each member of these courts and tribunals, selected with the most scrupulous attention, an Imperial *bérat*, guaranteeing them against dismissal without legitimate cause, and an arrangement will be carried out which will fix their right to a retiring pension.

The reorganization which we have decreed of our High Court of Justice, having for its object to secure the normal and regular expediting of all suits at law, by uniting together in a uniform organization all the Nizamié Tribunals (civil, criminal, and correctional), we command that the same rules be applied to the said Tribunals established in our States, the mission of which is to render justice to our subjects, and to establish everywhere the laws of equity.

In order to remove every cause of mistrust on the part of the public with regard to the constitution and composition of these Tribunals, and to place them beyond the reach of the interference and influence of the executive power, we decree in the most formal manner as follows :—

All our subjects are authorised themselves to elect the Judges and Members, Mussulman and non-Mussulman, both of these said Tribunals and of the Administrative Councils of the Provinces. Consequently precise instructions shall be sent into all the Provinces of the Empire to establish these Tribunals and Councils, and to proceed to their constitution in the manner as above decreed.

The Naïbs, who are in the chief places of the vilayets, will occupy the posts of Presidents of the Courts of Appeal of these chief places. The Presidents of the Civil and Criminal Tribunals in the chief places of the Sandjaks and Cajas shall be chosen from the most capable persons.

The examination, as regards the Chéri, of the sentences passed by the Tribunals of the Chéri of the Sandjaks and Cajas will also devolve upon the said Naïbs of the chief places of the vilayets.

As the appointment of the Tribunals must have as an essential effect the centralization of the guarantees for the security of personal rights, suits between our Mussulman and Christian or other non-Mussulman subjects, as well as suits of our Christian

[Reforms.]

subjects among themselves, or with our subjects of other non-Mussulman faiths, and the suits of these last among themselves, shall be referred to the Nizamié Tribunals (civil, correctional, and criminal). The laws and rules relating to the procedure to be followed before these Tribunals must be completed and put into force as speedily as possible, and in accordance with our Imperial Decrees.

The scrupulous observance of the law is a safeguard against arbitrary proceedings, and should consequently be the object of constant attention on the part of the Tribunals. In like manner the application of the decrees of the law, proportioned to the gravity of the crime committed, should be taken into serious consideration, in order that no one should be imprisoned without conviction, and that ill-usage should never be tolerated. For this purpose it should be publicly announced that all those who shall have been convicted of having committed acts in violation of the principles here laid down will be prosecuted and punished with the utmost rigour of the laws, and this in order to secure absolute respect for justice.

Taxes.

One of the most important points of the fundamental principle which guarantees the rights of our subjects consists in the application of a fair proportion of the imposts and dues of the State, as well as in their collection according to an equitable system. It is true that the general revenues of the Treasury have been proportioned to the administrative and military expenses required by the exercise of authority, and that all proper means must be sought of augmenting these revenues for the purpose of developing the resources of the country and public property; but it is needful also, and such is our Imperial will, to renounce such branches of public revenue as are a cause of suffering to the population, without securing any important advantage to the Treasury.

The variety of internal imposts and contributions, to which all our subjects are liable, having brought about an abnormal condition of collection and apportionment, we decree that a mode of unification of these imposts be devised and immediately put in force, so as to relieve the populations of our Empire by an equitable apportionment, while protecting the legitimate interests of the Treasury.

Collection of Tithes.

Independently of the suppression of the supplementary fourth of the Tithe, a suppression which was recently decreed by reason of our Imperial solicitude for the welfare of all our subjects, more effective steps must yet be taken to guard against arbitrary* proceedings in the collection of the tithe by the intervention of farmers of the taxes, and equally to prevent any injury being suffered either by our populations or by our Imperial Treasury.

Collection of Taxes.

As the collection of taxes paid directly by our subjects, a collection which ought to possess a special character, had been entrusted to the *zaptiés* in the Provinces, and that this mode of proceeding is now admitted to be productive of abuse, we decree that the police shall no longer interfere in the recovery of taxes; and that for this purpose collectors be appointed, chosen by the Mussulman and non-Mussulman populations themselves, who shall carry on the collection according to instructions which shall be prepared for them. Such being in this respect our decided Imperial will, this measure shall be without delay put into force, designed as it is to guarantee equally the exercise of fiscal rights and the mode of collecting taxes.

Titles to Real Property.

Among the questions which affect the interests of our subjects, that of the reform to be effected in the titles to real property presents itself. The conveyance of these titles, which is effected in a different manner in our Capital and in the Provinces, as well as the want of titles, have the effect of overloading the Tribunals with work, of causing difficulties and lawsuits to the prejudice of the populations, and of lessening the value of real property. To obviate these evils the titles of all real property, to whatever category they may belong, shall be henceforth only conveyed by the general direction of the archives. A complete programme will be published for this purpose to secure the rights of property to all our subjects.

Police (Zaptiés).

According to our constant wish the life, the property, and the honour of all our subjects are to be secured, and this end should

* 2nd October, 1875. (No. 454.)

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be principally attained by means of the police. Therefore the zaptiés shall be selected from honest men possessing the confidence of the inhabitants of each locality. The measures concerning their functions shall at once be put into force, in order to establish once more confidence and security amongst all classes of our subjects.

Forced Labour.

The progress of civilization in our Empire being the object of all our desires, and the wealth of a people being only to be developed by their welfare, it is the duty of the executive authority to spare our subjects all constraint and all abuses, such as the annoying custom of statute labour, which has been already totally forbidden in principle; those enforced labours having been applied to the construction of roads, causeways, and other works of public utility, with respect to which the population already displayed so much zeal and patriotism, care must be taken not to make this service of payment in kind a source of annoyance and injury both to person and property. Therefore this defective system shall be reformed and guarded with securities. Precise and categorical instructions shall be given to the administrative functionaries that they may refrain from committing any act contrary to our will in this respect.

Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce.

Considering that it is a matter of urgency to adopt measures calculated to reform and develop the agriculture, industry, and the commerce of our Empire, and thus to increase the wealth of our subjects; considering also that the essential functions of the Ministry of Commerce ought to consist in carrying out our intentions in this respect, we decree that capable and competent men be consulted in these matters, and that their opinions be submitted for our Imperial sanction.

Religious Equality, Churches, Schools, &c.

All the classes of our subjects who live under the shadow of our Imperial protection are, in our eyes and in our views of justice, upon a footing of perfect equality. For this reason we confirm the powers with which the patriarchs and other spiritual heads are invested for the affairs of their respective communities, as well as for the free exercise of their religious worship, in conformity with the privileges and immunities existing in the said

communities. All the matters pertaining, whether to the authority of these spiritual heads, or to their needs, or to the competence of their special councils, will continue, within the limits of the rights and powers which have been granted them, to be the objects of all our protection, and all facilities shall be afforded them for the foundation and construction of their churches, schools, and other national buildings.

Non-Mussulman Subjects: Admission to Public Functions, &c.

All classes of our subjects having always free access to public rank and functions, according to their merit and fitness, we confirm the admission into these posts of our non-Mussulman subjects whose integrity and capacity shall have been admitted.

Non-Mussulman Subjects: Military Service.

The tax for exemption from military service to which our non-Mussulman subjects are liable was imposed as a compensation for the actual military service enforced from our Mussulman subjects; but as the equality of rights implies equality of obligations, and allowance was not made in fair proportion with regard to the age and condition of the person liable; and, lastly, as the collection and apportionment of this impost in the interior of communities was not submitted to a regular and equitable control, we decree, as a fresh evidence of our justice, that the apportionment of the said tax shall be so arranged that all our non-Mussulman subjects who have not attained the age of 30 years, or who shall have passed the age of 40 years, as well as the infirm and invalids, shall be freed from this contribution. Care shall be taken that the rule established, calculated on the individual proportion of this contribution, shall not be affected by this measure; that the tax shall be collected according to the actual number of those liable; and that if the numbers shall increase the revenues of the Treasury shall increase in proportion; that, lastly, the collection according to the mode here decreed shall be effected by the care of those themselves liable to the tax. Henceforth the present contribution of 100 livres per head for those Mussulmans who wish to escape military service shall be, according to the same principle of equality, reduced to 50 livres.

Non-Mussulman Subjects: Right to possess Land.

In certain parts of our Empire our non-Mussulman subjects

cannot possess land, and are employed upon farms. This state of things being opposed to our sense of justice, there shall no longer exist any distinction between our subjects, either with regard to the possession of unoccupied lands sold under judgment, or with regard to the possession of lands and property sold by private persons. Consequently they shall be secured in the enjoyment, on a footing of the most perfect equality, of the dispositions of the law of real property.

Non-Mussulman Subjects: Wills.

The testamentary dispositions of our non-Mussulman subjects in the Provinces shall be respected, and no interference will be permitted with the proceedings of the guardians of the property of minors. The authorities shall only interfere in cases where complaints are made against guardians and executors for mal-administration, and in such cases may take the management of property into their care.

Observance of Laws.

All these prescriptions and immunities, springing from our Imperial will, have for their principal object to increase the welfare of the populations placed under our sovereign authority. The greatness, the glory, and the security of states can only be maintained by the integrity and justice of the executive powers, by the obedience of all to the established laws, and by the strict observance on the part of great and small of the rights and functions of every one. All those who in our States shall act in conformity with these principles shall be the recipients of our Imperial favours, while those who despise this same principle will suffer just punishment. We decree, therefore, that there be established, after having been submitted to us for our sanction, a rule according to which there shall be presented to us, in perfect security, all information and all legitimate desires which may arise to inform us of the contravention of our sovereign commands, or of misdeeds which may have been committed. We desire also that, independently of the measures which shall be taken to secure the strict observance of the laws, rules and instructions be prepared to define the functions of the Valis, the Mutesarifs, the Kaïmakams, and all the functionaries in general, conformably to our Imperial orders. We desire, lastly, that it be understood by all that the favours which we grant by these

presents can benefit only those who fulfil their duties as faithful and loyal subjects, and that those who depart from this position will be naturally deprived of benefit.

You, who are our illustrious Grand Vizier, you will publish and promulgate, in the form ordained, this sovereign rescript, as well in our Capital as in all the Provinces of our Empire; and you will see that all the necessary measures are taken to ensure the strict and continued execution of the dispositions which it contains.

Given the 13 Zilcaldé, 1292 (^{30th November}_{12th December}, 1875).

No. 456.—*DESPATCH from Count Andrassy to Count Beust, respecting the Insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and proposed Reforms. Buda-Pest, 30th December, 1875.**

TABLE.

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(Translation as laid before Parliament.†)

Buda-Pest, December 30, 1875.

SINCE the commencement of the troubles in the Herzegovina, the European Cabinets interested in the general peace have been compelled to fix their attention on the occurrences which threatened to endanger it.

The three Courts of Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Germany, after exchanging their views on this subject, have united for the purpose of employing in common their efforts for pacification.

This object appeared too much in conformity with the general wish for them to doubt that the other Cabinets, when invited to associate themselves in the movement through their Representatives at Constantinople, would hasten to join their efforts to ours.

The Powers have come to an agreement to make use of all the influence at their disposal in order to localize the conflict, and diminish its dangers and calamities by preventing Servia and Montenegro from participating in the movement.

Their language has been the more effectual from being identic, and has, consequently, testified the firm determination of Europe not to permit the general peace to be imperilled by rash impulses.

The Cabinets, moreover, have offered to the Turkish Government the good offices of their Consular Agents to assist in put-

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, 3rd January, 1876. Lord Derby replied to this despatch on the 25th January, 1876.

† For French version, see "State Papers," vol. 66, page 921.

ting an end to the Insurrection. In the pursuit of this object, they have been equally careful to avoid all meddling, and to guard the dignity, rights, and authority of the Sovereign.

The Delegates were not authorized to constitute themselves a Commission of Inquiry, or to make themselves the advocates of the wishes of the Insurgent populations. Their mission was to undeceive them as to any assistance to be expected from without, and to exhort them to disperse after setting forth their wishes and grievances. The Powers merely reserved the power of urging on the Turkish Government such of the demands of the insurgents as should appear to be legitimate. This conciliatory action of the Cabinets sufficiently testified to the friendly intention which had inspired their good offices. It showed that in their eyes there existed a complete identity in the interests of Europe, of the Porte, and of the Insurgent populations, to put an end to a ruinous and sanguinary conflict, and to prevent its recurrence by serious reforms and effective improvements of a nature to reconcile the real necessities of the country with the legitimate requirements of authority.

Such is briefly the history of the proceedings of the Powers since the outbreak of the Insurrection.

The Cabinets have till now been especially guided by the desire to avoid everything that could be construed as an unreasonable interference on the part of Europe.

Accordingly, all the Cabinets have confined themselves to recommending the Sultan not to trust solely to military measures, but to apply himself to combating the evil by moral means, with a view to avert future disturbances.

In acting thus, the Cabinets intended to furnish the Sublime Porte with the moral support of which it stood in need; and, further, to give it time to pacify feelings in the revolted Provinces, hoping that all danger of ulterior complications might thus be averted.

Unfortunately their hopes have been disappointed. On the one hand, the Reforms published by the Porte do not appear to have had in view the pacification of the populations of the Insurgent Provinces, or to be sufficient for the attainment of this essential object. On the other hand, the Turkish arms have not been successful in putting an end to the Insurrection.

Under these circumstances, we think that the moment has arrived for the Powers to agree on a course to be pursued in

common, to prevent the peace of Europe being ultimately compromised by a continuation of the movement.

In common with the other Powers, we have applauded the benevolent intentions which have inspired the recent Manifestoes of the Sultan. The Iradé of October 2 (**No. 454**), and Firman of December 12 (**No. 455**), contain a series of principles intended to introduce Reforms into the organization of the Ottoman Empire. There is reason to believe that these principles, if embodied in wisely-conceived legislative measures, and if, above all, their execution fully corresponds with the enlightened views which have dictated them, will introduce real ameliorations into the administration of Turkey.

We cannot, however, disguise from ourselves that the projected reforms cannot, by themselves, arrest, even momentarily, the shedding of blood in the Herzegovina and Bosnia, still less establish on a secure basis the future tranquillity of these portions of the Ottoman Empire.

In fact, on examination of the contents of the Iradé of October 2 (**No. 454**) and the Firman of December 12 (**No. 455**), one must acknowledge that the Sublime Porte appears to be engrossed rather with general principles which, when they have been formulated, will serve as bases for the administration of the Empire, than with the pacification of the Provinces at present in revolt.

Now, it is for the interest of the Ottoman Government that peace should, above all, be assured; for, so long as it is unsecured, it will be impossible to carry out even the principles which the Porte has proclaimed.

On the other hand, the state of anarchy which prevails in the Provinces to the north-west of Turkey not only involves difficulties for the Sublime Porte, but also conceals grave danger to the general tranquillity; and the different European States cannot see with indifference the continuation and aggravation of a state of affairs which already weighs heavily on commerce and industry, and which, by daily shaking more and more the public confidence in the preservation of peace, tends to compromise the interests of all parties.

We, therefore, believe that we are fulfilling an imperative duty in calling the serious attention of the Guaranteeing Powers to the necessity of counselling the Sublime Porte to complete its undertaking by such measures as appear indispensable for the

re-establishment of order and tranquillity in the Provinces now ravaged by the scourge of civil war.

After a confidential exchange of ideas, which has taken place between ourselves and the Cabinets of St. Petersburg and Berlin, it has been recognized that such measures must be sought for in a twofold direction—first, on a moral, and secondly, on a material, ground.

In fact, the material condition itself of the Christian inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina is primarily due to their social and moral position.

Religious Liberty.

In examining the fundamental causes of the painful situation in which Herzegovina and Bosnia have been struggling for so many years, one is at once struck with the sentiments of enmity and rancour which animate the Christian and Mahommedan inhabitants against each other. It is this frame of mind which has rendered it impossible for our Delegates to persuade the Christians that the Turkish authorities could be sincerely disposed to redress their grievances. Perhaps there is no district of European Turkey where the antagonism which exists between the Cross and the Crescent takes such an acrimonious form. This fanatical hatred and distrust must be attributed to the proximity of populations of the same race in full enjoyment of that religious liberty of which the Herzegovinian and Bosnian Christians see themselves deprived. The effect of the incessant comparison is that they feel oppressed under the yoke of a real servitude, that the very name of Rayah appears to place them in a position morally inferior to that of their neighbours, and that, in one word, they feel themselves Slaves.

More than once Europe has had to occupy herself with their complaints, and with the methods for terminating them. The Hatti-Humayoun of 1856 (**No. 263**) is one of the results of the solicitude of the Powers. But, even by the terms of this Act, religious liberty is still limited by clauses which, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are enforced with a rigour which every year provokes new conflicts. The erection of buildings for religious and educational purposes, the use of bells, and the constitution of religious communities, are still subjected in those provinces to restrictions which appear to the Christians as so many tokens always before their eyes of that war of conquest

which makes them see in the Mussulmans only the enemies of their faith, and perpetuates the impression that they live under the yoke of a slavery that it is their right and their duty to shake off.

The last Firman (**No. 455**) certainly touches this point of liberty of religion, as indeed the Hatti-Chérif of 1839 (**No. 188**), the Hatti-Houmayoun of 1856 (**No. 263**), and other acts emanating from the Sublime Porte, had already done. It confirms the powers with which the patriarchs and other spiritual heads are invested for the affairs of their respective communities and the free exercise of their religions; but it assigns to them "as limitations the rights and authorisations which have been accorded to them." It promises also facilities for the construction of churches and schools, a promise which has been more than once notified in official documents, but which cannot be reassuring, because its realization depends on provincial authorities, who, being exposed to local pressure, could not even carry them into execution, unless the principle be clearly laid down.

The Firman, then, which has just been promulgated, goes no farther than what has already been accorded by the Hatti-Houmayoun, which, as I have already made apparent, surrounds religious liberty with restrictions, which, during the last few years, have provoked numerous conflicts. With such restrictions, the concessions in question have always been insufficient to content the Christians. All the more will this be the case now, after the events which have happened to lacerate the country, and which have only envenomed the antagonism which separates the two creeds, the Insurrection once suppressed, the Mahomedan element, considering itself as conqueror, will doubtless seek to avenge upon the Christians the losses to which so severe a contest has subjected it. A state of affairs which should render possible the co-existence of populations who have just been fighting with so much fury can only be assured if the Christian religion be placed in law and in fact on a complete footing of equality with Islamism, and be openly recognized and respected, and not merely tolerated as it is at present. For this reason, as it appears to us, the Guaranteeing Powers ought not only to demand of the Porte, but obtain from it as the first and principal concession, full and complete religious liberty.

Equality before the law is a principle expressly proclaimed in the Hatti-Houmayoun, and sanctioned by legislation. Doubt-

less it is for this reason that the recent decrees of the Sultan have omitted to mention it.

But, whilst legally obligatory, this principle is not yet generally applied throughout the Empire. As a matter of fact, the evidence of Christians against Mussulmans is received by the tribunals of Constantinople, and the majority of the large towns, but in some distant provinces, such as Herzegovina and Bosnia, the judges refuse to recognize its validity. It would be important then to take practical steps to relieve the Christians in future from the fear of a denial of justice.

Farming of Taxes.

Another point which calls for prompt remedy is the farming of taxes. Already the Hatti-Chérif of 1839 (**No. 188**), in speaking of this system, has expressed itself in the following terms:—

“A deplorable practice still subsists, though its consequences cannot fail to be disastrous; it is that of the venal concessions known under the name of *iltizan*. By this system the civil and financial administration of a district is handed over to the will of an individual, that is to say, sometimes to the iron hand of the most violent and avaricious passions.”

And the Hatti-Houmayoun of 1856 (**No. 263**) contains the following:—

“The promptest and most energetic measures will be taken into consideration for correcting the abuses in the collection of the taxes, especially of the tithes. The system of direct collection will be substituted by degrees, and as speedily as possible, for the practice of farming in all the branches of the State revenue.”

In spite of these formal declarations, the system of farming is still in force to its fullest extent.

The Sublime Porte now foreshadows reforms in this direction, but without stating anything definitely. The Firman of December 12 (**No. 455**) again styles as abnormal the system for the collection of taxes actually in force. It orders the search for a mode of unification of taxes. It further prescribes measures to be taken “to prevent arbitrary proceedings in the collection of the tithe by the intervention of farmers,” but it does not abolish farming.

If it is desired, then, to deprive the insurrection of an essen-

tial and perpetual source of nourishment, one of the points which must be demanded by the Porte is that she should clearly and categorically declare that the system of farming the taxes is suppressed, not only in law but in practice, for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this measure must be immediately applied.

Product of Direct Taxation.

One of the causes which still further materially aggravate the burden, already so heavy, of the taxes in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, is that the inhabitants believe themselves to be overburdened financially for the benefit of the capital. They entertain the belief that the proceeds of the taxes are not devoted to meeting the necessities of the province, but that the total of the sum received is immediately sent to Constantinople for the use of the Central Government.

It would then be necessary to alleviate morally the weight of the burdens the province has to support, by securing that, without any encroachment on that which the expenses of the Empire require, a portion of the product of the taxes paid by the province may be reserved for purposes beneficial to its peculiar interests.

With this view, the Porte should declare that the revenue from indirect taxation should, as heretofore, be applied to the necessities of the Empire in general, but that the funds arising from direct taxation should remain in the province, and be exclusively applied in its interests to enlarge its resources and augment its prosperity.

The execution of this regulation should be placed under the control of the Elective Council, of which mention will be made in the course of this paper.

Condition of Rural Population.

The unhappy condition of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Christians is caused in great measure by the nature of the relations subsisting between the rural population and the land owners. Agrarian difficulties have always had a peculiarly bitter character in the countries where the landlord class differs, either in religion or nationality, from the bulk of the labourers. There are but too many examples of the furious conflicts which have resulted from such a situation.

In the provinces we are dealing with nearly the whole of the properties not belonging to the State or to the Mosques are in the hands of Mussulmans, whilst the agricultural class is composed of Christians of both creeds. The agricultural question is then complicated by religious antagonism.

After the suppression of the first insurrection of the Bosnian Beks in 1851, slavery was abolished; but, as often happens in such cases, this measure, instead of alleviating the condition of the peasants, has only aggravated it. They are no longer treated with the same consideration as before. Now-a-days there are only two antagonistic interests, and two religions face to face. From the moment when the disappearance of the feudal system effected the transformation of the former serfs into farmers (or "métayers"), the outrageous practices of the landlords provoked numerous general or partial outbreaks. A movement of this kind having broken out in 1858 in the north of Bosnia, the Porte was prevailed upon to take into its consideration the disputes which had occasioned it. Delegates from both sides were summoned to Constantinople, and, after long discussions, in which the officious intercession of the Internuncio of His Majesty the Emperor and King had a share, a Firman was obtained from the Sultan, the provisions of which appeared at that time sufficient to conciliate successfully enough the interests of the agricultural proprietors. However, this Firman has never been carried into execution.

It would not be out of place to examine if some of the provisions of this document could not, even at the present time, serve as the basis for an equitable arrangement suitable for the amelioration of the condition of the rural population, or if it would be practicable to call upon the public treasury to facilitate the execution of the measures to be taken with this object, in imitation of what occurred twenty years ago in Bulgaria, where the landlords' dues have been brought up by means of the issue of public obligations called "sekims."* We feel that the task is difficult, and that its accomplishment cannot be the work of a day; but we believe that it is important to labour at it, so as to ameliorate the lot of the rural population in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and to close thus one of the open wounds in the social condition of these Provinces. It would not seem impossible to us to find some combination which should gradually

* "Titres publics" dits "sekims."

permit the peasants to acquire, on easy terms, portions of the waste lands which the State put up to sell. Whilst continuing, if they wished, to cultivate as farmers the estates of their Mussulman compatriots, they would, by degrees, attain to the possession themselves of a little real property, which would assure them a certain independence, and would provide for their imposts.

Special Commission to Superintend Execution of Reforms.

If one considers the distrust with which the promises of the Sublime Porte are received by the Christians, it is impossible to disguise from oneself that the published reforms can only inspire the necessary confidence by the creation at the same time of some institution capable of offering a certain guarantee that these reforms will be executed in earnest. To content oneself with confiding their execution to the discretion of the Provincial Governments would not be sufficient to remove the distrust of which I am speaking. It would be expedient then to nominate a Commission of the notables of the country, composed half of Mussulmans and half of Christians, and elected by the inhabitants of the Province in accordance with a scheme to be settled by the Sublime Porte.

I have now set forth the measures, the application of which to the revolted Provinces must be obtained to enable one to entertain a well-grounded hope of pacification.

These measures are as follows:—

Reforms Required.

Religious liberty, full and entire;

Abolition of the farming of Taxes;

A law to guarantee that the product of the Direct Taxation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be employed for the immediate interests of the Province, under the control of bodies constituted in the sense of the Firman of December 12 (No. 455);

The institution of a Special Commission, composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians, to superintend the execution of the Reforms proposed by the Powers, as well as of those proclaimed in the Iradé of October 2 (No. 454) and Firman of December 12 (No. 455);

Lastly, the amelioration of the condition of the rural populations.

The first four points could and should be immediately carried out by the Sublime Porte; the fifth by degrees, as soon as possible.

Additional Reforms Required.

If, independently of these concessions, which appear to us the most essential, Bosnia and Herzegovina obtain, in addition, the following Reforms indicated in the recent Firman, a Provincial Council and tribunals freely elected by the inhabitants, irremovability of judges, secular justice, individual liberty, security against ill-treatment, the reorganization of the police, whose conduct has excited so many complaints, the abandonment of the abuses to which the levies for public works give rise, an equitable reduction in the tax for exemption from military service, security for proprietary rights,—if all these reforms, the communication of which we claim from the Porte, in order to take formal note thereof, are applied in the insurgent Provinces, which, to judge by the text of the Firman, would not appear as yet to be in a position to benefit by them, one may hope to see peace restored in these desolated districts.

To resume. The indefinite promises of the Iradé of October 2 (No. 454) and Firman of December 12 (No. 455) can only excite aspirations without satisfying them. On the other hand it is clear that the Turkish arms have not succeeded in putting down the insurrection. Winter has suspended action, spring will see it revive. The conviction is general among the Christians that, spring once come, fresh elements will strengthen the proceedings, that Bulgaria, the Cretans, &c., will come to swell the movement. Be this as it may, it is to be foreseen that the Governments of Servia and Montenegro, who already, up to this time, have had great difficulty in holding aloof from the movement, will be powerless to resist the current, and for the future, under the influence of events and of public opinion in their countries, they appear to have accustomed themselves to the idea of taking part in the struggle on the melting of the snows.

In this situation the task of the Powers, who in the interest of the general peace desire to stave off ulterior complications, becomes very difficult. Austria-Hungary, and the two other Imperial Courts, after a confidential exchange of ideas, are all agreed that, were one merely to await the effect of the principles

enunciated by the last Firman—principles which, moreover, according to the intentions of the Porte, do not appear to be intended to be immediately applied to the revolted countries, the only result would be to see the conflict widely extended at the termination of the winter. The three Cabinets then think that the only chance to avoid fresh complications is in a manifestation emanating from the Powers and making clear their firm resolution to arrest the movement which menaces to involve the East.

Now this end cannot be attained by the simple method of an injunction addressed to the Governments of the Principalities and to the Christian populations subjects of the Sultan. To give this action, very difficult in itself, a chance of success, it is absolutely necessary that the Powers should be in a position to appeal to Acts, clear, indisputable, practicable, and specially suited for the improvement of the situation of Herzegovina and Bosnia, in one word that their action may be grounded on facts and not on programmes. It is only by these means that the Cabinets will find themselves in a position to turn to a proper account their pacific counsels.

There is another difficulty—and it is the greatest—which must, at all hazards, be overcome if one hopes to be able to reckon on any sort of a favourable result. This difficulty is the deeply-rooted distrust that every promise of the Porte's encounters at the hands of the Christians. One of the principal causes of this mistrust is discoverable in the fact that more than one measure announced in the Sultan's latest rescripts has already been announced in former Hatti-Chérifs, without causing any appreciable amelioration of the lot of the Christians.

The Cabinets think it, therefore, absolutely necessary to obtain from the Sultan's Government, by means of an official Commission, the confirmation of his intentions with regard to the whole Empire, set forth in the Iradé of October 2 (**No. 454**) and Firman of December 12 (**No. 455**), and his notification to the Powers of his acceptance of the points specified above, the special object of which is the pacification of the revolted Provinces.

Undoubtedly the Christians would not, by this method, obtain the form of guarantee they appear to demand at this moment, but they would find a relative security in the very fact that the reforms accorded would be recognized as indispensable

[Andrassy Note. Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

by the Powers, and that the Porte would have pledged itself to Europe to carry them into execution.

Such is the firm conviction resulting from a preliminary exchange of ideas between the Cabinets of Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Germany.

Your Excellency is directed to bring this view of the case to the knowledge of the Court of St. James, and to obtain its concurrence in the work of peace, the success of which our efforts tend to assure.

If, as I hope, the views of the English Government accord with our own, we should propose, out of consideration for the dignity and independence of the Porte, not to address our advice to the latter in the form of a collective note, but to confine ourselves to inviting our Representatives at Constantinople to act conjointly and in an identic manner towards the Sultan's Government in the sense of what we have set forth.

You will be so good, M. le Comte, as to read the present despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to leave him a copy of it, and I should be glad to know as soon as possible the impression it has made on his Excellency.

Receive, &c.

ANDRASSY.

[A copy of this Note was communicated by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople to the Porte on the 31st January, 1876.]

No. 457.—*BRITISH REPLY to the Andrassy Note respecting Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina. London, 25th January, 1876.*

TABLE.

1. Religious Liberty.
2. Abolition of the Farming of Taxes.
3. Application of Direct Taxation in *Bosnia and Herzegovina* to the Benefit of those Districts.
4. Institution of a Special Commission, composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians, to Superintend Execution of Reforms.
5. Amelioration of the Condition of the Rural Population.

The Earl of Derby to Count Beust.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the despatch from Count Andrassy, dated the 30th December (**No. 456**), of which I had the honour of receiving a copy from your Excellency on the 3rd instant.

After a brief review of the action of the Powers since the insurrection broke out in Herzegovina and Bosnia, Count Andrassy proceeds to state the measures which the Austrian Government, after communication with the Governments of Germany and Russia, consider as proper to be recommended for the pacification of the insurgent districts.

These measures consist in the practical enforcement in these districts of the provisions for the benefit of the Christian population, contained in the Hatti-Scheriff of Gulhané of 1839, (**No. 188**), the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856 (**No. 263**), and the Iradé and Firman of the 2nd October (**No. 454**) and 12th of December last (**No. 455**), together with administrative reforms in the collection and application of the taxes, and in the execution of the Land Law of 1858.*

Count Andrassy sums up these points as follows:—

Full and entire Religious Liberty.

Abolition of the system of farming the Taxes.

A law which should guarantee that the produce of the Direct Taxes in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be employed in the interest of these provinces, under the control of bodies constituted in the sense of the Firman of the 12th December.

* Law 21st April. 1858. See "State Papers," vol. 63, page 1222.

[Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

The institution of a Special Commission, composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians, to control the execution of the reforms proposed by the Powers, as well as those proclaimed in the *Irada* of the 2nd of October and *Firman* of the 12th of December; and, finally; the improvement of the position of the Rural Population.

Of these points the first four could and should, Count Andrassy states, be brought into immediate execution by the *Porte*; the fifth gradually as soon as is practicable.

The Austro-Hungarian Government consider that if Bosnia and Herzegovina obtain these concessions and other reforms indicated in the recent *Firman*, but which, from the text of the *Firman*, would appear not to be intended to be at present applied in the insurgent districts, hopes may be entertained of the restoration of peace.

Count Andrassy adds that there is a general conviction among the Christians that in the spring the insurrection will spread to Bulgaria, Crete, &c., and that at all events it is to be foreseen that the Governments of Servia and Montenegro may be unable to resist the force of public opinion in their countries and be led into joining the movement as soon as the winter breaks up.

The three Cabinets accordingly consider that the only chance of avoiding new complications is to be found "*dans une manifestation émanant des Puissances et constatant leur ferme résolution d'arrêter le mouvement qui menace d'entraîner l'Orient.*"*

"Or, ce but," Count Andrassy continues, "ne saurait être atteint par le seul moyen d'une injonction à l'adresse des Gouvernements Princiers et des populations Chrétiennes sujettes du Sultan. . . . Aussi les Cabinets croient-ils absolument nécessaire d'obtenir que le Gouvernement du Sultan confirme, au moyen d'une Commission officielle, ses intentions consignées par rapport à l'ensemble de l'Empire dans l'*Irada* du 2 Octobre et dans le *Firman* du 12 Décembre, et qu'il notifie en même temps aux Puissances son acceptation des points ci-dessus mentionnés, qui ont pour objet spécial la pacification des provinces insurgées."†

* "In a manifestation emanating from the Powers, and making clear their firm resolution to arrest the movement which threatens to involve the East."

† "Now this end cannot be attained by the simple method of an injunction addressed to the Governments of the Principalities and to the Christian

Count Andrassy concludes by saying that it is proposed, out of regard to the independence and dignity of the Porte, not to address these counsels to it in a collective note, but that the Governments should confine themselves to instructing their representatives at Constantinople to act together, and in an identic manner, towards the Sultan's Government in the sense of his despatch.

I have thus recapitulated the proposals in Count Andrassy's communication in order the better to indicate the view which Her Majesty's Government take of them.

In the first place, I have to request your Excellency to express to the Government of Austria-Hungary the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at finding themselves in continued and friendly communication with the Cabinet of Vienna on this question. They do not believe that the true interests of the two countries can in such a matter be otherwise than identical.

1. *Religious Liberty.*

Her Majesty's Government have never omitted, when opportunity presented itself, to urge upon the Porte the most liberal measures for the improvement of the Christian population as an essential condition to the welfare of the Ottoman Empire.

They were parties, as your Excellency is aware, to the Protocol signed at Vienna on the 1st of February, 1856 (**No. 268**), providing that the immunities of the Rayah subjects of the Porte shall be confirmed without prejudice to the independence and dignity of the Sultan's Crown, and the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain afterwards joined at the Congress of Paris with those of the other Powers in considering it indispensable that the issue of the Hatti-Humayoun should be recorded in the final Act of the Congress.*

The Government of Austria-Hungary do not, if I rightly

Populations, subjects of the Sultan The Cabinets think it therefore absolutely necessary to obtain from the Sultan's Government, by means of an official Commission, the confirmation of his intentions with regard to the whole Empire, set forth in the Iradé of October 2 (**No. 454**) and Firman of December 12 (**No. 455**), and his notification to the Powers of his acceptance of the points specified above, the special object of which is the pacification of the revolted Provinces."

* Art. IX of Treaty of Peace of 30th March, 1856 (**No. 264**). Protocols No. 2 of 28th February, 1856, and No. 14 of 25th March, 1856 (**No. 268**.)

understand, consider that the provisions of that Firman, taken in connection with the Hatti-Scheriff of Gulhané of 1839 (**No. 188**), are insufficient for securing religious liberty to the Christian population of the Empire, but rather that those provisions, and especially such as relate to the building of churches and schools, have never been satisfactorily brought into execution within the districts to which Count Andrassy's despatch more particularly refers.

The Hatti-Humayoun (**No. 263**) contains the following clause on the subject:—

“In the towns, small boroughs, and villages, where the whole population is of the same religion, no obstacle shall be offered to the repair, according to their original plan, of buildings set apart for religious worship, for schools, for hospitals, and for cemeteries.

“The plans of these different buildings, in case of their new erection, must, after having been approved by the Patriarchs or Heads of Communities, be submitted to my Sublime Porte, which will approve of them by my Imperial Order, or make known its observations upon them within a certain time.

“Each sect, in localities where there are no other religious denominations, shall be free from every species of restraint as regards the public exercise of its religion.

“In the towns, small boroughs, and villages, where different sects are mingled together, each community inhabiting a distinct quarter shall, by conforming to the above-mentioned ordinances, have equal power to repair and improve its churches, its hospitals, its schools, and its cemeteries. When there is question of the erection of new buildings, the necessary authority must be asked for through the medium of the Patriarchs and Heads of Communities from my Sublime Porte, which will pronounce a sovereign decision according that authority, except in the case of administrative obstacles. The intervention of the administrative authority in all measures of this nature will be entirely gratuitous. My Sublime Porte will take energetic measures to ensure to each sect, whatever be the number of its adherents, entire freedom in the exercise of its religion.”

On the 15th of May, 1867,* the Porte addressed a circular to its Representatives at the Courts of the Treaty Powers, inclosing a Memorandum explaining the further administrative measures which it was intended to carry out in execution of the

* See “State Papers,” Vol. 63, page 1251.

[Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

Hatti-Humayoun. This Memorandum, of which your Excellency's Government is no doubt in possession of a copy, touched upon the different provisions of the Hatti-Humayoun, and, remarking upon the manner in which effect had been given to them, stated that no impediment had ever been placed in the way of the construction of new churches or the repair of old ones. "So far from placing difficulties in the way, the Sovereign and the Government often came to the aid of these religious foundations, either by gratuitous concessions of land or by pecuniary grants."

By the Criminal Code of the Empire, Article 132: "Quiconque aura troublé l'exercice du culte et des cérémonies religieuses que les différentes classes de sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale sont autorisés à exercer, ou qui les aura entravés par des voies de fait ou des menaces, sera, selon le degré de gravité du cas, puni d'une semaine à trois mois d'emprisonnement."*

Furthermore, in the Firman of the 12th December last, the Sultan has declared, "Toutes les classes de nos sujets qui vivent à l'ombre de notre protection Impériale sont à nos yeux et dans nos sentiments de justice sur le pied d'une complète égalité. C'est pourquoi nous confirmons les pouvoirs dont sont revêtus les patriarches et les autres chefs spirituels pour les affaires de leurs communautés respectives, ainsi que pour le libre exercice de leurs cultes, conformément aux privilèges et immunités existant des dites communautés. Toutes les affaires se rattachant tant à l'autorité des dits chefs spirituels qu'au besoin et aux actes de leurs conseils spéciaux, dans les limites des droits et autorisations qui leur ont été octroyés, continueront à être l'objet de toute notre protection, et l'on accordera toutes les facilités pour la fondation et la construction de leurs églises, de leurs écoles, et de leurs autres édifices nationaux."†

* "Whoever shall have disturbed the exercise of the religious worship and ceremonies which the different classes of His Imperial Majesty's subjects are authorised to exercise, or who shall have impeded them by violence or threats, shall, according to the degree of gravity of the case, be punished by imprisonment of from one week to three months."

† "All the classes of our subjects who live under the shadow of our Imperial protection are, in our eyes and in our views of justice, upon a footing of perfect equality. For this reason we confirm the powers with which the patriarchs and other spiritual heads are invested for the affairs of their respective communities, as well as for the free exercise of their religious worship, in conformity with the privileges and immunities existing in the

So far, therefore, as the intention of the Porte can be proclaimed, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that the principle of religious liberty throughout the Ottoman Empire has been acknowledged to the fullest extent, and Her Majesty's Government see no reason why the Porte should scruple to accept the counsel of friendly Powers for its practical application.

In like manner the acceptance of Christian evidence and the establishment of mixed tribunals with publicity of trial have been provided for in the Hatti-Humayoun (No. 263), and in the law of 1867 for the organization of the Vilayets,* which also established throughout the Empire a system of elective Councils, containing a proportion of Christian members; and the recent Firman, too, decrees in the most formal manner that "Tous nos sujets sont autorisés à élire eux-mêmes les juges et les membres Musulman set non-Musulmans, tant des dits Tribunaux que des Conseils Administratifs des Provinces."†

2. *Abolition of the Farming of Taxes.*

Again, as regards the farming of the taxes, the Memorandum of May 15, 1867‡, to which I have already referred, stated that "The system of farming taxes has been suppressed, except as regards the tithes, with regard to which the system of direct collection has been tried for five years, and has not produced the results anticipated therefrom: on the one hand, direct collection has, in fact, occasioned a sensible diminution in the revenue derived from tithes; and, on the other, the populations have almost unanimously pronounced against this system, preferring one which permits a discharge in kind. The Imperial Government has accordingly had to renounce this system, and to revert to that of farming, into which it has, however, introduced a

said communities. All the matters pertaining, whether to the authority of their spiritual heads, or to their needs, or to the competence of their special councils, will continue within the limits of the rights and powers which have been granted them, to be the objects of all our protection, and all facilities shall be afforded them for the foundation and construction of their churches, schools, and other national buildings."

* Law, 15th May, 1867. See "State Papers," Vol. 63, page 1260.

† "All our subjects are authorised themselves to elect the Judges and Members, Mussulman and non-Mussulman, both of these said Tribunals, and of the Administrative Councils of the Provinces."

‡ See "State Papers," Vol. 63, p. 1259.

modification very favourable to the agricultural population. This modification consists in granting the farming of the tithes in each village by means of a separate public auction, and in permitting the commune itself to become the purchaser of the tithe at the sum to which the rate has raised it. Another relief extended to the mode of collecting the tithes is permission to the husbandman either to effect himself the transport of the produce of the tithe with which he is chargeable, or to exonerate himself therefrom subject to an indemnity in kind payable to the farmer without being constrained, as formerly, to abandon his labours at a season when his presence in the fields is most necessary. Lastly, to do away with a source of abuse often and justly pointed out, it is forbidden to any officer of the State to become purchaser of tithes directly or indirectly, and the Penal Code provides for and punishes every infraction of this prohibitive measure."

The Firman of the 12th of December (No. 455) states :

"Indépendamment de la suppression du quart supplémentaire de la dîme, suppression qui a été récemment décrétée par l'effet de notre sollicitude Impériale pour le bien-être de tous nos sujets, on doit encore prendre les mesures les plus efficaces pour prévenir l'arbitraire dans la perception de la dîme par l'intermédiaire des fermiers, et pour empêcher également qu'aucun dommage ne soit porté soit à nos populations agricoles soit à notre Trésor Impérial."*

Her Majesty's Government have been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, that the entire suppression of the system of tax-farming is resolved upon, and that the best mode of levying the taxes for the future is under the consideration of the Porte.

On this point also, therefore, the views of the Porte may be said to be already in accordance with the recommendations contained in Count Andrassy's despatch.

It must, however, be obvious that a readjustment of the mode

* "Independently of the suppression of the supplementary fourth of the tithe, a suppression which was recently decreed by reason of our Imperial solicitude for the welfare of all our subjects, more effective steps must yet be taken to guard against arbitrary proceedings in the collection of the tithes by the intervention of farmers of the taxes, and equally to prevent any injury being suffered either by our agricultural populations or by our Imperial Treasury."

of levying the taxes in money instead of in kind, unless carefully adapted to local circumstances and requirements, gives rise to much injustice and distress.

Still, as regards the two questions of religious liberty and of the abolition of the system of tax-farming, a general agreement of the Porte and the Powers may be said to be in principle already secured.

3. *Application of Direct Taxation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Benefit of those Districts.*

The third point, that of the application of direct taxation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the benefit of those districts, is scarcely sufficiently explained for Her Majesty's Government to be able to appreciate its scope. They are not aware of the proportion which the direct may bear to the indirect taxes, nor of the exact signification which in Turkey may be attached to the expressions "direct" and "indirect" taxation. Her Majesty's Government believe that certain direct taxes have been hypothesized as security for foreign loans, and in making any recommendation to the Porte on this point it would seem to be necessary to bear this in mind.

It is questionable, too, whether such a system could be applied to one portion of the Empire alone, without being eventually extended to neighbouring provinces, or possibly to the whole of the Turkish dominions, and any plan which should have for its ultimate and logical result the withdrawal of the whole direct taxation of the Empire from the Treasury, might have a most serious effect in impeding the execution of those public works and other measures of general utility upon which the improvement of the condition of the population depends.

At the same time, if it can be shown that taxes levied for local purposes in the nature of rates have been misapplied, and just cause for complaint thus given, the matter is one which the Porte might well be counselled to consider and remedy.

4. *Institution of a Special Commission, composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians, to superintend execution of Reforms.*

The fourth point, namely, the institution of a Special Commission composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and

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Christians, has, Her Majesty's Government understand, been already to some extent provided for. A council has, in fact, already commenced its sittings at Constantinople for the purpose of carrying out the Firman of December 12th (**No. 455**). As, according to the Law of the Vilayets, to which I have already adverted, the principle of mixed councils to assist the Vali is recognised, Her Majesty's Government do not see that the Porte need experience any difficulty in organising a mixed council in the manner and for the purpose proposed by Count Andrassy. Indeed, it would appear from the "*Règlement relatif aux attributions du Conseil Exécutif*,"* received on the 18th instant from Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, that this has already been ordered.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of this document in case it may not already have been forwarded to your Excellency.

5. *Amelioration of the Condition of the Rural Population.*

The fifth point, the improvement of the condition of the agricultural population might, it is explained, be attained by allowing the peasants to purchase portions of uncultivated lands on easy terms from the State.

Count Andrassy refers to a Law on this subject, which I presume to be that of the 21st of April, 1858,† consolidating and amending the laws relating to landed property in Turkey. This law provided that uncultivated lands belonging to the State might, with the consent of the authorities, become the property of the person who undertook to reclaim them, on payment of a certain sum.

Her Majesty's Government are not aware what may be the extent or redeemable value of any waste lands of this description in Bosnia and Herzegovina, nor do they see how the peasants could be benefited in the manner suggested, unless assisted by capital, which it must be presumed that they do not at present possess. The question, however, of the grant of lands to the labouring population is one which presents many difficulties both of principle and detail. In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it could only be satisfactorily dealt with after local investigation and discussion by competent persons. The Firman of December 12 (**No. 455**) states:—

* See "*State Papers*," Vol. 67, page 1226.

† See "*State Papers*," Vol. 63, page 1222.

“ Dans certaines parties de notre Empire nos sujets non-Musulmans ne peuvent pas devenir propriétaires, et sont employés dans les fermes. Cet état de choses étant contraire à nos sentiments de justice, il n'existera plus désormais aucune distinction entre nos sujets, soit pour la possession des terres vacantes vendues par adjudication, soit pour la possession des terres et biens qui sont vendus par des particuliers. En conséquence, on leur assurera la jouissance, sur le pied de la plus complète égalité, des dispositions de la loi sur la propriété foncière.”*

Count Andrassy alleges that the Firman of 1858 has never been brought into operation in Bosnia. As the Porte now recognizes the justice of the complaint of the Christian population in some places in this regard, this matter also might well be considered as one upon which there is in principle a mutual agreement, so far at least as the application of the Law of 1858 is concerned.

Your Excellency will have observed from the foregoing remarks that Her Majesty's Government see nothing in the five points proposed by Count Andrassy to which they cannot give a general support; although, on the other hand, the proposed reforms relating to taxation and grants of land involve in their detailed application to districts like Bosnia and Herzegovina many questions upon which they are not prepared, in their present state of information, to offer a definite opinion.

Her Majesty's Government are well aware of the burdens and anxiety which the existence of an insurrection in the immediate neighbourhood of the Dalmatian frontier must entail upon Austria-Hungary, and they cannot consider it to be either unreasonable or undesirable that the Cabinet of Vienna should desire to tender to the Porte suggestions for the pacification of the disturbed districts.

They rely upon the assurances contained in Count Andrassy's despatch, and upon those which your Excellency has conveyed to

* “ In certain parts of our Empire our non-Mussulman subjects cannot possess land, and are employed upon farms. This state of things being opposed to our sense of justice, there shall no longer exist any distinction between our subjects, either with regard to the possession of unoccupied lands sold under judgment; or with regard to the possession of lands and property sold by private persons. Consequently they shall be secured in the enjoyment, on the footing of the most perfect equality, of the dispositions of the Law of Real Property.”

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me, that, if these suggestions are carried into effect, the Austro-Hungarian Government will, in concert with the other Powers whose united action Count Andrassy has invited, use their best exertions to prevent the spread of the movement and to induce the insurgents to submit, or effectually preclude them from receiving assistance from beyond the frontier should they persist in continuing the struggle.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will accordingly be instructed to give a general support to the proposals of the Austro-Hungarian Government, and to act with his colleagues for this purpose.

I have, &c.,

DERBY.



[Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

No. 458.—*TURKISH REPLY to the Andrassy Note, respecting proposed Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 13th February, 1876.*

TABLE.

Supplementary Reforms.

Religious Liberty.

Farming of Taxes.

Amelioration of Condition of Rural Population.

Commission to Superintend Execution of Reforms.

Appropriation of Direct Taxes.

Circular to the Representatives of the Sublime Porte at Paris, London, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Berlin, and Rome.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

YOU are aware that his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Royal and Imperial Majesty of Austria-Hungary had arranged with the Great Powers to recommend as a friend to the Sublime Porte certain Reforms for application in Bosnia and in Herzegovina, with a view to induce, as soon as possible, the pacification of our insurgent districts.

Some days ago, Count Zichy, Baron Werther, and General Ignatiew, Ambassadors of the three Northern Courts, communicated to me verbally the contents of a despatch which Count Andrassy addressed on the 30th of last December (**No. 456**) to the Representatives of Austria-Hungary at Paris, at London, and at Rome.

On their side, the Representatives of France, England, and Italy have acquainted me with the adhesion of their Governments to the ideas suggested by the Austro-Hungarian Cabinet (**No. 457**). My telegram of the 1st instant informed you of the above.

In view of the unofficial and friendly form in which, as I have just said, this communication was made to us, and since, moreover, the despatch which was read was not directly addressed to ourselves, I consider it quite unnecessary to enter upon an analysis of the purport of this document, or to touch upon certain points which lend themselves to discussion.

The Sublime Porte has therefore confined itself to considering the five points which contain the proposals of the Count, and has examined them with care. We are persuaded of the

[Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

firm and sincere intention of the Great Powers to co-operate in an efficacious manner for the prompt pacification of the insurgent districts, and consequently are glad to declare ourselves ready to avail ourselves of their friendly dispositions. We never doubted the frankness and loyalty of their intentions as regards ourselves, insomuch as we ourselves also were very anxious to bring back to reason these interesting but mistaken populations, in order to make them, like the other provinces of the Empire, reap benefit from the advantages granted to them by the Imperial Firman of the 12th of last December (No. 456).

Anxious for the well-being of all his subjects without distinction, and desirous, in his high and generous initiative, to extend to the revolted districts both the favours already conceded as well as the measures loyally suggested by Count Andrassy, measures which he considers as appertaining to his sovereign rights, and as ameliorations supplementary to those already decreed by his recent august rescript, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has been pleased to ordain by an Iradé, dated 15th Mouharrem, 1293,* the application of the following points, which are the necessary consequence of the principles adopted by the Sublime Porte, and which are to come into full force in all parts of Bosnia and the Herzegovina without exception.

Supplementary Reforms: Religious Liberty. Farming of Taxes. Amelioration of Condition of Rural Population. Commission to Superintend Execution of Reforms.

These supplementary reforms may be summarized as follows:—

1. Full and entire religious liberty.
2. Abolition of the system of farming the taxes.
3. Amelioration of the agrarian position of the peasants who cultivate the soil.
4. The establishment of a Local Commission, composed in equal numbers of Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans, to superintend the general execution of all the reforms which have been decreed.

Appropriation of Direct Taxes.

With regard to the clause in Count Andrassy's project which relates to appropriation of the direct taxes to the wants of the

* 11th February, 1876.

[Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

province itself, the Sublime Porte has to observe that this proposition cannot be brought into harmony with the general system of our financial administration.

However, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, with his feelings of clemency and anxiety for the districts ravaged by the insurrection, has determined that their situation shall be taken into consideration by his Government, and he consequently has just decreed the measures necessary for setting aside a certain sum, the amount of which will be settled by His Majesty's orders, after that he has heard the wishes of the Administrative Councils, based upon the wants of the several places.

This sum will form a supplement to the revenue already allotted to Bosnia and Herzegovina for purposes of public utility. The expenditure of the sums appropriated under this latter head will be minutely audited by the Provincial Councils, established according to the terms of the Firman of the 12th of December last (No. 455).

Your Excellency will closely follow this order of the Sublime Porte, which seems to us to offer no perceptible difference between matters affecting the very basis and matters relating only to the form of Count Andrassy's propositions.

I conclude this despatch by declaring, by order of His Majesty our august Master, that the Imperial Government is firmly resolved to carry out these reforms in all their integrity, and to take good care that they are not infringed in any way.

I request you, M. l'Ambassadeur, to read this despatch to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to give him a copy of it.

I beg, &c.,

RASCHID.

[In February, 1876, a Proclamation was issued by Sultan Abdul Aziz, granting an amnesty to all insurgents in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who, within four weeks from that date, would lay down their arms and make their submission. On the 30th May, 1876, Sultan Abdul Aziz was deposed; and died on the 4th June following. He was succeeded by Sultan Murad V; and on the 5th of June, Vizirial instructions were issued to the Turkish Commissioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina to proclaim an amnesty for all insurgents who would make their submission and return to their homes within six weeks.]

No. 459.—*TURKISH INSTRUCTIONS to Governors-General of the Provinces, relating to the General Administration of the Vilayets.** March, 1876.

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* For Law of the Vilayets, 1867, see "Législation Ottomane," Ed. 1874, Part II, p. 273. For Law respecting the general administration of the Vilayets, see Ed. 1874, Part III, p. 7. See also "Law of the Vilayets (Eastern Roumelia)," 23rd August, 1880.

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(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Chapter I.—*Duties of the Valis.**Administration of each Vilayet by a Governor-General.*

ART. I. The Empire is divided into provinces called Vilayets. The administration of each Vilayet is entrusted to a Vali or Governor-General.

Equality of all Ottoman Subjects before the Law.

ART. II. All Ottoman subjects, to whatever class they may belong, are, without exception, equal before the law. The security of individual rights being the sole object of the establishment of States, the first and most pressing duty of the Valis is to assure and to guarantee the rights of all Ottoman subjects, both collectively and individually, and to place them beyond the reach of arbitrary or vexatious action.

Responsibility of Valis to the Government.

ART. III. The Valis are left quite free in the exercise of their functions, but at the same time they are directly responsible to the Government for the execution of their orders.

[Law of the Vilayets.]

Execution of Reforms. Exercise of Functions.

ART. IV. The duties of the Valis are, in accordance with present instructions, divided into two categories:—

1. The execution of the reforms.
2. The exercise of their functions within the limits of their powers.

Maintenance and Development of Reforms.

ART. V. The duties incumbent on the Valis, as far as concerns the execution of the reforms, consist in putting into practice completely and altogether the measures decreed, in accordance with the Imperial Firman recently promulgated. Their powers, properly so-called, consist in watching over the maintenance and regular development of the reforms, when once they shall have been applied, as well as the general administration, in a sense corresponding with the interests of the State and of the province.

Chapter II.—*Duties of the Valis: Execution of Reforms.*

ART. VI. The duties relating to the execution of the reforms comprise:—

Tribunals and Councils.

(a.) The new system of election of members and of the constitution of the Tribunals and Councils.

Police Agents, Tax Gatherers, &c.

(b.) The system of classification and of election of police agents, of the tax-gatherers, of bailiffs, of the *personnel* of the staff of the Councils and Tribunals, as well as of custodians.

Prisons.

(c.) The organization and administration of prisons.

Landed Property.

(d.) The improvement of the formalities relating to the drawing up and delivery of the titles of property, and the strict observance of the laws in the transfer of landed property.

Military Service.

(e.) The modification of the tax of exoneration from military service, and its levy on a system of proportional distribution.

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Forced Labour.

(f.) The application in an equitable manner of the system of forced labour for the construction of roads and other works ;

Agriculture.

(g.) The progress and development of agriculture ; the superintendence of the proper employment, and of regularity in the accounts of the funds of the agricultural treasuries instituted with the above object ;

Taxes.

(h.) The fixing of the assessment of the taxes, the designation of the sources of local contributions, and the adopting of means suited to secure their receipt.

Elections. Councils and Tribunals.

ART. VII. The most important point in the formation of the Councils and Tribunals, that essential part of the reforms, consists in the free exercise of the power of election granted to all classes of the population, and which is to be exercised free from all interference ; therefore, it is the Valis' duty—

(a.) To see that the choice both of the electors sent by the villages and of the eligible persons named by them, shall be carried out without any influence being exerted by the Government functionaries, or by the notables of the country ;

(b.) To hand over at once to justice, for punishment in accordance with the law, every individual, whoever he may be, who shall have attempted to intimidate the electors from a feeling of personal animosity against one of the candidates, whether it be openly or secretly, with the object of preventing the election or of annulling the vote ;

(c.) To choose from the list of the members elected by the population to the extent of double the necessary number, according to the special instructions, those persons who most enjoy the public confidence.

The Valis are to superintend in person the strict application of the system of election indicated above, and to cause the Mutessarifs and the Kaïmakams to conform equally thereto.

Police Agents and Tax Collectors.

ART. VIII. In the composition of the corps of police agents,

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and of tax-collectors, as well as in the choice of the *personnel* of the service and of custodians, it will be their duty to conform to the special instructions mentioned in the Article relating to the execution of the reforms.

The powers of these agents form, in some sort, part of those of the Valis, as these last represent the Executive Power, while the agents in question are the intermediaries for carrying out its orders.

Therefore the Valis are bound to see that these agents discharge the duties which are incumbent upon them within the limits of the special instructions.

ART. IX. In the choice of police agents and others, individuals of bad conduct must be struck out with the greatest care, and only persons who are honourable and worthy of confidence must be taken, without restriction as to the class of population to which they may belong.

It is the Valis' duty to prescribe formally to the proper persons to give the greatest attention that the choice of these agents be carried out exactly according to the above conditions.

They will be responsible when (the persons so chosen having committed acts which are reprehensible and contrary to the special instructions) they have shown negligence in sending them before the Tribunals.

Prisons.

ART. X. The organization and administration of prisons have a double object. The first is to prevent persons who are undergoing examination being imprisoned with those who are condemned to penalties decreed by the law; the second, to prevent any one from being kept in prison uselessly and without a regular sentence.

The chief superintendence of the prisons is intrusted to the Valis in the Vilayets, to the Mutessarifs in the sandjaks, and to the Kaïmakams in the cazas. A Registrar nominated by the Authorities, and who is at the same time to be director of the prison, shall be charged with registering the names of the detained persons and with drawing up the reports.

ART. XI. The Valis shall, in the first place, take the necessary measures to constitute the Councils in the form recommended. They shall select the directors and warders of the prisons. They shall then establish in the chief place of the Vilayets and sandjaks a Committee of First Instance, composed

of a President and two members, Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans.

Prisons. Arrests.

ART. XII. It will be the duty of these Committees to inquire into the causes which have led to the arrest by the zaptiehs of the accused persons, and to order them to be imprisoned and interrogated, if the act attributed to them is of a nature to bring on them the penalties decreed by law; to set immediately at liberty, upon bail, those whose conduct does not require the application of the law; to see that no one is retained in prison without necessity.

The Committees shall daily draw up, and shall send in to the Valis, reports indicating which of the individuals brought to the police office have been set at liberty, and which have been kept under arrest.

Landed Property.

ART. XIII. All Ottoman subjects without distinction can acquire lands belonging to private persons, whether handed over by way of transfer, or to the State as "Mahbul" (escheat), or sold by auction, or, lastly, lands that are free.

ART. XIV. Special instructions will be drawn up concerning the manner of drawing out and handing over titles of property, the principle and the collection of the tax for exoneration from military service, the construction of roads and other works of public utility, the progress and development of agriculture, the administration of the agricultural treasuries, and lastly, the improvement of the assessment of the taxes and of the sources of the local contributions.

These instructions will be most explicit touching the duties of the Valis relative to these matters, who will be bound to conform strictly thereto.

The Valis are authorized to execute all the measures authenticated by the special instructions, and they are personally responsible as well for their non-execution as for the abuses which may arise.

Chapter III.—*General Duties of the Valis, or their Powers properly so-called.*

Reforms.

ART. XV. The duties of the Valis are, as has been specified

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in Chapter I, to secure the maintenance and regular development of the reforms which have been applied.

Dismissal of Employés.

ART. XVI. The duties indicated in the present Chapter constitute the Valis' mission; they are bound to pay constant attention that the functionaries, in the several branches of the administration of the Vilayet, perform, on their part, the duties which are incumbent on them. They are therefore authorized to remove from their places those of the employés placed directly under their orders who have neglected their duties or have committed illegal acts, or acts contrary to the instructions which concern them. This dismissal, however, can only take place after a preliminary inquiry, and a verdict in conformity with the circumstances and with the special regulations.

As to those employés whose dismissal does not require the authorization of the Sublime Porte, the Valis are bound to submit to it the causes which led to the dismissal.

As to those who can only be removed from their functions directly by the Sublime Porte, the Valis must first report to Constantinople the circumstances which account for and justify the dismissal.

If the employés who do not come directly under the Valis, but under some Minister or Administration, commit reprehensible acts, the Valis shall report them to the Minister or Administration to which the employés belong.

Any negligence on the part of the Valis in the superintendence which they ought to exercise over the acts of the subordinate employés, will attach responsibility to them.

The functionaries placed directly under the orders of the Valis, and acting in accordance with their instructions, are equally responsible within the limits of their special province.

Police (Mutessarifs, Kaïmakams, &c.).

ART. XVII. The Valis are authorized to take all police measures which they judge necessary.

However, in case of extraordinary incidents which might disturb public order, they ought to refer to the Sublime Porte, while taking proper proceedings to discover their causes. Likewise, under similar circumstances, the Mutessarifs will ask for instructions from the Valis, and while taking those dispositions

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that circumstances dictate, they can bring the facts to the knowledge of the Sublime Porte, according to the exigencies of the place and of the affair.

ART. XVIII. The Valis are expressly forbidden to employ the agents and officers of police for their personal service under any plea or pretext whatever. This order applies equally to the Mutessarifs, to the Kaimakams, and to the other functionaries of the State.

Police Agents, Tax Collectors, and Bailiffs.

ART. XIX. Whenever the police agents, tax-collectors, or bailiffs take without payment, from the villages, provisions and forage, the inhabitants are authorized to address their complaints at once to the authorities, and the Valis are strictly bound to see that similar acts do not occur, and that the offenders are punished in accordance with the law.

Transport of Military Baggage, &c.

ART. XX. It is strictly forbidden to procure, in any improper manner, or by vexatious proceedings, beasts of burden necessary for the transport from one place to another of military baggage or ammunition.

Prisons; Detention of Individuals without Trial.

ART. XXI. The Valis ought continually to inspect the prisons, to inquire into the state and the health of the prisoners, to see that they are occupied, that those who have completed their term are immediately set at liberty, and that no one is detained in prison a considerable time without trial. If the trials of individuals detained under accusation are unduly protracted before the Tribunals who are trying them, the Valis ought to accelerate the process and put the judgments pronounced in execution.

Prisons and Prisoners (Mutessarifs and Kaimakams).

ART. XXII. The Valis will employ the Presidents of the Civil Tribunals for the superintendence of the prisons, and for the certification of the condition of the prisoners.

ART. XXIII. The Valis shall take into serious consideration the observations and communications of the directors of the prisons, concerning the general condition of the prisoners, and

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the improvement of the prisons. They shall cause to be drawn up at the end of every quarter, to be transmitted to the Ministry of Justice, a general table indicating the number of persons who have entered prison during that space of time, those of them who have been set at liberty, and those who have been kept in a state of arrest. The Mutessarifs and the Kaïmakams in the sandjaks and the cazas must likewise conform to the regulations concerning the prisons.

Tribunals. Election of Members. Deliberations. Execution of Judgments.

ART. XXIV. The Valis shall not in any way intervene in the election of members, nor in the deliberations of the Tribunals. However, if the inquiry into cases which the Tribunals have to take cognizance of, and if criminal cases meet with delays, or if complaints are brought forward by the interested parties, the Valis shall inform the Presidents of the Tribunals of it, and, if necessary, the Ministry of Justice, and shall thus accelerate the progress of the trials. Further, they are bound to execute the judgments pronounced, and not to delay, without motive, an affair already judged.

ART. XXV. As the law ordains, the Valis are formally forbidden to influence, in the least degree, the Tribunals, or to allow it to be supposed, during the trial, that they take the side of either of the parties to the suit.

Tribunals. Judgments of the Nizamié. Language.

ART. XXVI. The judgments of the Nizamié Tribunals in civil or correctional affairs shall be drawn up in the Turkish language; they shall bear, at the bottom of the text, and according to the localities, a translation in Arabic, in Greek, in Bulgarian, in Bosnian, or in Armenian.

State Revenues.

ART. XXVII. The Valis are charged with the superintendence in general in the provinces of the collecting, of the custody, of the dispatch, and of the employment of the revenues of the State. They shall take care to conform to the dispositions of the regulations, and of the special instructions which determine the limits of the powers and responsibility which belong to them under this head, jointly with the Defterdars.

Taxes. Finances.

ART. XXVIII. The Valis have no power to impose on the population, without superior order, and without the sanction of an Imperial Iradé, any new tax, nor to reduce an existing tax below its fixed figure. Their duties consist in administering financial affairs, in effecting the collection of the revenues as fixed by law, at the proper time and in a suitable manner, and in bringing economy to bear on the expenditure, that is, in securing the interest of the Treasury as well in the expenditure decreed as in that which is not, and in preserving the revenues of the State in general from all loss, and in acting with equity in the collection of the taxes, while seeing that arrears do not accumulate from the negligence of the employés. The Valis may, if they discover any illegalities in the assessment or in the amount of the taxes, study their modification and improvement, and submit the result to the Sublime Porte. Further, they ought constantly to inquire if the Defterdars act in conformity with the instructions concerning their functions.

Roads and Public Works. System of Corvées forbidden.

ART. XXIX. New and special instructions will regulate the system of constructing the roads and other works of public utility, on the basis of the abolition of the system of *corvées* which are and will be formally forbidden.

Testamentary Arrangements (Wills). Succession of Christians.

ART. XXX. The testamentary arrangements relating to the succession of Christians are maintained. The goods of Minors, Mussulman or non-Mussulman, who have guardians, will not be interfered with, and in this respect the laws and usages established should be conformed to. In case of complaints against the conduct of guardians towards their wards, the authorities will take the latter under their protection, while examining seriously the subject of the complaints brought forward.

Civil, Financial, Judicial, and Police Affairs (Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams).

ART. XXXI. The Valis are authorized to promote the prompt dispatch of civil, financial, and police affairs in the localities placed under their jurisdiction. With this object they will

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transmit directly the necessary orders to the Mutessarifs and to the Kaïmakams, and will carry out the decisions of the Government. The employés under the orders of the Administration must always address themselves to the Valis. As regards judicial matters, the Mutessarifs are bound, if necessary, to address themselves to the Ministry of Justice, to execute the orders and decisions which are communicated to them, and to advise the Valis of them.

ART. XXXII. The Valis must make personally tours of inspection in the interior of the provinces, and see to the regular progress of affairs in general.

Chapter IV.—*Duties of the Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams.*

Mutessarifs, Representatives of Valis in the Sandjaks.

ART. XXXIII. The Mutessarifs are the representatives of the Valis in the sandjaks. Their duties are identical with those of the Valis laid down in the present instructions. In the same way as the superintendence of the Valis extends over the sandjaks, so the Mutessarifs superintend in their turn the cazas belonging to the sandjaks over which they preside.

ART. XXXIV. The Mutessarifs communicate and confide to the Kaïmakams the execution of all affairs which come within the limit of the powers confided to them. As regards questions which pass this limit, they refer them first to the Valis, and act accordingly.

Judicial and Police Affairs.

ART. XXXV. In police affairs of great importance, the Mutessarifs, while asking for instructions from the Valis, are authorized to inform, if necessary, the Sublime Porte. In judicial matters, they may similarly correspond with the Ministry of Justice.

Civil, Financial, and Judicial Affairs. Kaïmakams, Representatives of Mutessarifs in the Cazas.

ART. XXXVI. The Kaïmakams are the representatives of the Mutessarifs in the cazas. Their duties consist in carrying out the arrangements of the present instructions relating to the administration of the cazas, and in superintending the dispatch of civil, financial, and judicial affairs.

Chapter V.—*Duties of the Councils and Tribunals.**Justice and Equity. Nizamiés, &c.*

ART. XXXVII. The members of the Nizamiés Tribunals must conform to the established laws, and never depart from the principles of justice and equity.

In virtue of the impartiality of the Tribunals, their members enjoy complete liberty and independence of opinion. The members of the Tribunals are placed as a whole under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.

ART. XXXVIII. The Administrative Councils presided over by the Valis in the vilayets, by the Mutessarifs in the sandjaks, and by the Kaïmakams in the cazas, take cognizance of the administrative affairs which concern the State and the province. Their duty consists in freely giving their advice on affairs submitted to their deliberations in accordance with law and custom.

ART. XXXIX. The members of the Administrative Councils are not responsible for execution contrary to their decisions. They must, however, abstain from all abuse in the exercise of their functions. The responsibility resulting from acts carried out contrary to decisions annulled or adjourned without motives, will fall on the functionaries charged with the executive power.

ART. XL. In cases when the members of the Administrative Councils shall discover irregularities or injustice in the administrative service, they may communicate, by a report to the Sublime Porte, the results of the discovery they may have made, while keeping within the limits of strict justice. Any individual who may be the object of vexatious acts exercised against his person, or of injustice committed against his interests, on the part of a public functionary or of a private person, has the right to complain directly to the Sublime Porte. If it is proved, however, that these complaints are the results of personal animosity, the calumniator will be subject to the penalties decreed by law.

Final Provision. Execution of above Instructions.

The Committee of Inspection of the Executive Council is charged with superintending the strict execution of the present instructions. Any infraction of their arrangements will entail responsibility before the law.

No. 460.—*CIRCULAR to Roumanian Agents abroad, announcing the Neutrality of Roumania in the Crisis in the East. April, 1876.**

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent,

EUROPE, in the midst of the emotions which still agitate her, feels so great a need of peace, such a desire to avoid every cause of conflagration, that I do not think it superfluous, with the objects of preserving for our country the sympathies of the Guaranteeing Powers, to recall to them, on this occasion, the peaceable and absolutely correct attitude which the Prince's Government has preserved from the commencement of the crisis which has arisen in the East.

This attitude, as prudent as it is loyal, does not only result from the personal views of a group of men, who, finding themselves in power, may have guided the current of opinion in this direction; it results in addition and above all from the traditions, the sentiments, the real interests of the Roumanian people.

Separated geographically from Turkey by one of the greatest rivers in the world, strong in her autonomy, confident in the Treaties which guarantee her existence, Roumania is not obliged to lay claim to rights which she has never forfeited. Though foreign by language, by race, by the genius of her people, to the races who inhabit Turkey, she does not hesitate to give them her sympathies; but neither does she see anything in the events passing beyond the Danube which ought to make her forget the economical and social questions which have arisen in her midst and which she must solve at any price.

The Roumanian people understands that on the solution of these problems depend its internal repose and welfare.

The desire of realising all the progress compatible with our time and our means forms at the present moment, M. l'Agent, the object of our constant care. The development of our agriculture and our commerce; the creation at all points, so to speak, of our industries; the multiplication of our relations

* Forwarded to the Foreign Office by Mr. Vivian, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest, on the 4th of April, 1876.

with neighbouring countries; the placing of instruction within the reach of all; the increase of our means of communication, are not these sufficient to absorb all our faculties? This noble task, this great field open to the intelligence and the activity of the Roumanians, are not these worthy of a nation eager to take its place in the great family of civilized peoples?

These peaceful and progressive ideas form a programme to which we shall know how to remain faithful. Relying under all circumstances upon the sympathy of the Great Powers; confiding in our own powers for our pacific development; we make the strict observance of Treaties the very basis of our policy.

Under present circumstances, this policy is defined in one word—Neutrality. If this policy gives us the right to the support and the esteem of the Guaranteeing Powers, it also imposes on us some sacrifices and the duty of making this Neutrality respected.

The preceding ought to suffice to enlighten the most prejudiced as to the real sentiments of the Roumanian people, and as to the real intentions of its Government. I have every reason to believe that these frank explanations will dissipate the rumours lately spread abroad concerning the alleged armaments which we were supposed to be making.

In point of fact, you are aware, M. l'Agent, that the Legislative Assemblies have only granted this year to the Minister of War, under the head of extraordinary credit, a sum of 950,000 fr. Although this Minister has at the present moment a reserve of 4,000,000 fr., that is because he has preserved intact 3,000,000 fr. from the credit which was allotted to him last year, and for which he would already have found employment, had the Government entertained, were it only for an instant, the warlike projects that have been so gratuitously attributed to it. Do you not think, Sir, that if the case had been so, it would have been his duty, first of all to give to our infantry that uniformity of armament which all the specialists demand for it, and for which we shall, nevertheless, be obliged to make them wait some time longer.

Such are the facts, M. l'Agent; such, I repeat, is the pacific conduct which the Prince's Government has followed, and which it is resolved to continue to follow.

Scrupulously observing all Treaties, as a disinterested spectator of the events which develop themselves around us, we

think only of the means of utilizing the immense resources of which Roumania can dispose.

I am desirous, Sir, that you should be impressed by these ideas, and that you should be exclusively inspired by them in all the verbal communications that you may be called upon to make to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of ———

I have, &c.,

BALLATCHANO.

No. 461.—*MEMORANDUM of the Views of Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia, on the Affairs of Turkey, and on the proposed Basis for the Pacification of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Berlin, 13th May, 1876.**

TABLE.

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Retention of Arms.

Consular Supervision.

(Translation.)

THE alarming tidings which come from Turkey are of a nature to impel the Three Cabinets to draw closer their intimacy.

The Three Imperial Courts have deemed themselves called upon to concert amongst themselves measures for averting the dangers of the situation, with the concurrence of the other Great Christian Powers.

Proposals for combined Naval Movements for Protection of Respective Subjects and Christians, and the Maintenance of Tranquillity.

It appears to them that the existing state of affairs in Turkey demands a double series of measures. It seems to them of primary importance that Europe should consider the general means necessary to guard against the recurrence of events similar to those which have recently taken place at Salonica,† and the repetition of which is threatened at Smyrna and Con-

* Communicated to Lord Odo Russell by Prince Bismarck, 13th May, 1876.

† On the 6th May a Religious Disturbance broke out at Salonica, during which the French and German Consuls were murdered in a Turkish Mosque. In consequence of the great alarm which these murders created among the Christians at Constantinople, Sir H. Elliot telegraphed, on the 9th May, to H.M.'s Consul-General at Beyrout, instructing him to inform Admiral Drummond, who was then at Jaffa, that his early presence at Constantinople might be very useful, and that he would be glad if he would bring the squadron to Besika Bay.

stantinople. To effect this the Great Powers should, in their opinion, come to an understanding as to the measures to be taken to insure the safety of their own subjects and of the Christian inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire, at all points where it may be found to be endangered.

It would appear possible to attain this end by a general agreement concerning the dispatch of vessels of war to the menaced points, and by the adoption of combined instructions to the Commanders of those vessels in cases where circumstances might require armed co-operation on their part with the object of maintaining order and tranquillity.

Nevertheless this end would be but imperfectly attained if the primary cause of those disturbances were not removed by the prompt pacification of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Great Powers have already united in this view upon the initiative taken in the despatch of the 30th of December last, (No. 456) with the object of obtaining an effective amelioration in the condition of the populations of these countries, without interfering with the political *status quo*.

They demanded of the Porte a programme of Reforms destined to answer this double purpose. The Porte, deferring to this demand, declared itself firmly resolved to execute these Reforms, and communicated this officially to the Cabinets (No. 458).

The latter thereby acquire a moral right—that of watching over the accomplishment of this promise, and an obligation, that of insisting that the Insurgents and Refugees should second this work of pacification by terminating the struggle and returning to their homes.

Nevertheless, this programme of pacification, though it has been adopted in principle by both parties, has encountered a two-fold obstacle.

The Insurgents have declared that past experience forbids them to trust the promises of the Porte, without a positive material European guarantee.

The Porte, on its side, has declared that, as long as the Insurgents were scouring the country in arms, and the Refugees did not return to their homes, it was materially impossible for it to proceed to the new organization of the country.

In the meantime hostilities have resumed their course. The agitation engendered by this strife of eight months has extended to other parts of Turkey. The Mussulman populations have

been thereby led to conclude that the Porte had only apparently deferred to the diplomatic action of Europe, and that at heart it did not intend seriously to apply the promised reforms. Thence arose a revival of religious and political passions, which has contributed to cause the deplorable events at Salonica and the menacing over-excitement which manifests itself at other points of European Turkey.

Nor is it doubtful that in its turn this explosion of fanaticism reacts on men's minds in Bosnia and Herzegovina as in the neighbouring Principalities.

For the Christians in these countries must have been keenly impressed by the fact of the massacre of the European Consuls, in open day, in a peaceful town, under the eyes of powerless authorities; how then can they be induced to trust themselves to the goodwill of Turks irritated by a protracted and sanguinary struggle?

Were this state of affairs to be prolonged the risk would thus be incurred of seeing that general conflagration kindled which the mediation of the Great Powers was precisely intended to avert.

It is most essential, therefore, to establish certain guarantees of a nature to insure beyond doubt the loyal and full application of the measures agreed upon between the Powers and the Porte. It is more than ever urgent to press the Government of the Sultan to decide on setting itself seriously to work to fulfil the engagements it has contracted towards Europe.

Proposed Armistice for Two Months.

As the first step in this direction the Three Imperial Courts propose to insist with the Porte, with all the energy that the united voice of the Three Powers should possess, on a suspension of arms being effected for the term of two months.

This interval would enable action to be brought to bear simultaneously on the Insurgents and the Refugees, to inspire them with confidence in the vigilant solicitude of Europe; on the neighbouring Principalities, to exhort them not to hinder this attempt at conciliation; and finally on the Ottoman Government, to place it in a position to carry out its promises. By this means the way might be opened for direct negotiations between the Porte and the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Delegates, on the basis of the wishes the latter have formulated, and

which have been deemed fit to serve as starting points for a discussion.

These points are as follows:—

Reconstruction of Houses and Churches; and Subsistence of Returning Refugees.

1. That materials for the reconstruction of dwelling-houses and churches should be furnished to the returning Refugees, that their subsistence should be assured to them till they could support themselves by their own labour.

Distribution of Relief by a Commission.

2. In so far as the distribution of help should appertain to the Turkish Commissioner, he should consult as to the measures to be taken with the Mixed Commission, mentioned in the note of the 30th of December (No. 456), to guarantee the *bonâ fide* application of the reforms and control their execution. This Commission should be presided over by a Herzegovinian Christian, and be composed of natives faithfully representing the two religions of the country. They should be elected as soon as the armistice should have suspended hostilities.

Concentration of Turkish Troops.

3. In order to avoid any collision, advice should be given at Constantinople to concentrate the Turkish troops, at least until excitement has subsided on some points to be agreed upon.

Retention of Arms.

4. Christians as well as Mussulmans should retain their arms.

Consular Supervision.

5. The Consuls or Delegates of the Powers shall keep a watch over the application of the reforms in general, and on the steps relative to the repatriation in particular.

If, with the friendly and cordial support of the Great Powers, and by the help of an armistice, an arrangement could be concluded on these bases, and be set in train immediately by the return of the Refugees, and the election of the Mixed Commission, a considerable step would be made towards pacification.

If, however, the armistice were to expire without the efforts

No. 461] AUSTRIA, GERMANY, AND RUSSIA. [13 May, 1876.

[Berlin Memorandum. Insurrection in Turkey.]

of the Powers being successful in attaining the end they had in view, the Three Imperial Courts are of opinion that it would become necessary to supplement their diplomatic action by the sanction of an agreement with a view to such efficacious measures as might appear to be demanded in the interest of general peace, to check the evil and prevent its development.

[A copy of this Memorandum was handed by Prince Bismarck to Lord Odo Russell, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, on the same day. The British Reply was dated 19th May, 1876, **No. 462.**]

No. 462.—*BRITISH REPLY to the Berlin Memorandum, on the Affairs of Turkey, and proposed Basis for Pacification of Bosnia and Herzegovina. London, 19th May, 1876.**

TABLE.

Proposed Armistice for Two Months.

Reconstruction of Houses and Churches of Insurgents, and Subsistence of Returning Refugees.

Distribution of Relief by a Commission.

Concentration of *Turkish* Troops ; Retention of Arms by *Insurgents*.

Consular Supervision.

Proposals for Combined Naval Movements for Protection of Foreigners and Christians.

(1.) *The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

Foreign Office, 19th May, 1876.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the Memorandum (**No. 461**) of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch of the 13th instant, containing the proposals of the Governments of Austria, Germany, and Russia for the pacification of the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

These proposals had been agreed upon by Count Andrassy, Prince Bismarck, and Prince Gortchakow at a meeting at Berlin, and your Excellency was requested to communicate them to Her Majesty's Government, with the hope that Her Majesty's Government would accede to them and express their opinion at once upon the telegraphic summary furnished by your Excellency.

I informed your Excellency on the 15th instant that it would be necessary for me to consult my colleagues, and that I could not give any reply until after the proposals of the three Governments had been considered by the cabinet.

I have now to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government regret to find themselves unable to co-operate in the policy which the three Governments have invited them to pursue. Her Majesty's Government appreciate the advantage of concerted action by the Powers in all that relates to the ques-

* See also other Despatches of the same date, pages 2468, 2469.

[Insurrection in Turkey.]

tions arising out of the insurrection, but they cannot consent to join in proposals which they do not conscientiously believe likely to effect the pacification which all the Powers desire to see attained.

Proposed Armistice for Two Months.

The proposals contained in the Memorandum are directed to pressing upon the Porte the establishment of an armistice for two months, with a view to direct negotiations between the Porte and the delegates of the insurgents on the basis of the wishes which the latter have expressed, and which have been thought fit to serve as points of departure for discussion.

In the first place, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that they would not be justified in insisting upon the Porte consenting to an armistice without knowing whether the military situation admitted of its being established without prejudice to the Turkish Government, and without rendering necessary the exercise of greater efforts on the renewal of the campaign, and a consequent prolongation of the struggle. Moreover, the faithful observance of the armistice by both sides would have to be secured, since the Porte could not well be called upon to suspend operations against the insurgents while the insurrection was receiving support from Servia and Montenegro, and the insurgents strengthening their position and recruiting their forces and obtaining arms and supplies. The mere fact of the insurrection remaining unsuppressed would be likely to give it additional vitality, and the result of an armistice might, therefore, be to lead to a rejection of any demands which the Porte might fairly be expected to concede, and thus hinder rather than advance the prospects of pacification.

At the same time Her Majesty's Government would not advise the Porte against acceding to an armistice should the Turkish Government consider that the political and military position admitted of it, and the result would be likely to be beneficial, although in view of the objections which I have mentioned, and others of a similar character which will readily occur to your Excellency, Her Majesty's Government do not feel justified in recommending it to the Porte, still less in insisting upon its acceptance.

In my despatch of the 15th instant I have informed your Excellency of some of the objections which I stated to Count

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Münster had occurred to me in regard to the five points which were proposed as a basis for negotiation between the Porte and the insurgents; a further consideration of the proposals has not led to any modification of the opinion I then expressed.

Reconstruction of Houses and Churches of Insurgents; and Subsistence of Returning Refugees.

Her Majesty's Government doubt whether the Porte has the means of providing for the reconstruction of the houses and churches of the insurgents or of finding subsistence for the returning refugees. If Her Majesty's Government are rightly informed, the cost would be very heavy, and the Porte has not the requisite funds at its disposal.

Distribution of Relief by a Commission.

The distribution of relief by such a Commission as is contemplated would be little better than a system of indiscriminate almsgiving. It would probably be beyond the power of the Porte to adopt, and if adopted, would prove utterly demoralizing to any country.

Her Majesty's Government do not mean to say that the Porte would not be wise in affording any practicable facilities and inducements for the return of the population who have quitted, or been driven from, their homes owing to the insurrection, but they do not consider that they can urge upon the Porte to undertake engagements the observance of which would be beyond its power.

Concentration of Turkish Troops; Retention of Arms by Insurgents.

The concentration of the Turkish troops in certain places would be delivering up the whole country to anarchy, particularly when the insurgents are to retain their arms.

Consular Supervision.

The "Consular supervision" would reduce the authority of the Sultan to a nullity; and, without force to support it, supervision would be impossible.

Even if there were any prospect of the Porte being willing and able to come to an arrangement with the insurgents on the basis proposed, which Her Majesty's Government scarcely believe

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possible, the intimation with which the Memorandum closes would render any such negotiation almost certainly abortive, for it could not be supposed that the insurgents would accept any terms of pacification from the Porte in face of the declaration that if the insurrection continued after the armistice the Powers would intervene further.

Regarded in this light, the proposal of an armistice seems to Her Majesty's Government to be illusory.

*Proposals for Combined Naval Movements for Protection of
Foreigners and Christians.*

There is another point not referred to in your Excellency's telegraphic summary, but to which it is necessary for me to advert, viz., the proposal in the third paragraph of the Memorandum that the Powers should agree upon the measures to be taken by their respective naval forces for the safety of foreigners and of the Christian inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire at Salonica and other places where it might be threatened.

Her Majesty's Government have already desired that Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" should proceed to Salonica, and that Admiral Drummond, with three other vessels of war, should go to Besika Bay, where he will be in ready communication with Her Majesty's Embassy, and an additional vessel of small size has been placed in attendance at Constantinople at Sir H. Elliot's request.

They have heard that other Powers have reinforced their squadrons in Turkish waters, and that there is a considerable naval force assembled at Salonica.

Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that the measures thus taken will have had a good effect in affording confidence to the subjects of Great Britain and other Powers at Salonica and elsewhere; and they will readily give instructions to Admiral Drummond and the Captains of Her Majesty's ships under his orders, to give any protection and assistance which may be necessary for the preservation of the lives and properties of foreign subjects, should they unhappily be in immediate danger, either in concert with the commanding officers of the ships of other Powers, or, in the absence of any such ships, on their own responsibility. Her Majesty's Government do not, however, at present apprehend any necessity for such measures, and they are of opinion that care should be taken that the naval forces of

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foreign Powers are not employed in any manner contrary to the Treaty rights of the Porte or subversive of the Sultan's authority.

Your Excellency is authorized to read this despatch to Prince Bismarck, and to leave a copy with his Excellency, should he desire it.

I am, &c.,
DERBY.

(2.) *The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.**

*Proposals of Austria, Germany, and Russia not previously
discussed with British Government.*

My Lord, *Foreign Office, 19th May, 1876.*

IN the despatch which I have addressed to your Excellency on the 19th instant (page 2464), I have stated that Her Majesty's Government are unable to give their assent to the proposals which the three Governments desire should be urged upon the Porte, and have mentioned the reasons which have induced Her Majesty's Government to refrain from doing so.

Those proposals take the shape of certain defined points for negotiation between the Porte and the insurgents, coupled with an armistice and an intimation of an intention to take further measures should the negotiation be unsuccessful. None of these proposals had previously been discussed with Her Majesty's Government, or, so far as they are aware, with the other Powers signatories of the Treaty of Paris; and the inconvenience has consequently arisen again, as in the case of Count Andrassy's note, of a set of Articles being submitted for the acceptance of Great Britain without any opportunity having been afforded for a preliminary consideration of their details by Her Majesty's Government, or for the possible objections of Her Majesty's Government to be considered by the three Governments concerned.

Her Majesty's Government attach little importance to forms in matters of this kind, and would have readily accepted the present proposals had they appeared to them to afford a feasible

* Similar instructions were addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Vienna and St. Petersburg. Copies were also sent to Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople, Paris, and Rome.

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plan for the pacification of the insurgent districts; but they cannot accept, for the sake of the mere appearance of concert, a scheme in the preparation of which they have not been consulted, and which they do not believe calculated to effect the object with which they are informed it has been framed.

I leave it to your Excellency's discretion how far it may be desirable that you should indicate the views of Her Majesty's Government in this respect in your communications with the German Government.

I am, &c.

DERBY.

(3.) *The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Diplomatic Intervention of Foreign Powers in the Affairs of Turkey deprecated.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 19th May, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of this day's date (inclosing a copy of the despatch which I have addressed to Lord Odo Russell page 2468), containing the answer of Her Majesty's Government to the proposals of the three Powers for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent districts, I have to point out to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have, since the outbreak of the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, deprecated the diplomatic intervention of other Powers in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire.

They agreed, at the instance of the Porte, to take part in the Consular Commission established in August last,† although they felt little confidence in any good results arising from it. They also, at the request of the Porte, took part in the concert of the Powers in regard to Count Andrassy's note (No. 456), although with certain reservations. They scarcely suppose that the Porte will again appeal to them to join the other Powers on the present occasion; and, even if the Porte were to do so, they would not be able to comply, since they feel that they cannot conscientiously advise the Porte to accept conditions which they cannot recommend as politic or feasible.

* Sent also to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, and Rome.

† Note, page 2402.

[Insurrection in Turkey.]

On the other hand, Her Majesty's Government do not desire to counsel the Porte to resist any advice or proposals which the Porte may consider to be practicable and advantageous.

They cannot conceal from themselves that the gravity of the situation has arisen, in a great measure, from the weakness and apathy of the Porte in dealing with the Insurrection in its earlier stages, and from the want of confidence in Turkish statesmanship and powers of government, shown by the state of financial, military, and administrative collapse into which the country has been allowed to fall. The responsibility of this condition of affairs must rest with the Sultan and his Government, and all that can be done by the Government of Her Majesty is to give such friendly counsel as circumstances may require. They cannot control events to which the neglect of ordinary principles of good government may expose the Turkish Empire.

I am, &c.,

DERBY.

No. 463.—*PROCLAMATION of the Prince of Servia of War against Turkey.* ^{18th}/_{30th} June, 1876.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.*)

To my beloved People.

A YEAR has almost elapsed since our brothers in Bosnia and Herzegovina rose in arms to defend themselves against the excesses of an arbitrary rule and unheard-of acts of violence. Their sufferings always awoke a sympathetic echo in our breasts, and when last year we heard them breathe again, I announced to our National Assembly my determination to do whatever lay in our power to seek for a satisfactory mode of pacifying those Provinces, to whose fate we can never be indifferent (**No. 452**). I said at the time that as Servia suffered most, both morally and materially, from those recurring insurrections, she has the greatest interest in putting an end, once for all, to a state of things by which they are caused.

But, from the moment that the Sublime Porte entered into negotiations with the Great Powers for the purpose of effecting the work of pacification, it became our duty to wait patiently and respectfully for the result of that attempt so zealously pursued by them in favour of our suffering brothers. But the measures adopted by the Sublime Porte having failed in inspiring confidence in the insurgents, the heroic struggle continued in the Herzegovina, and a cruel repression made itself daily felt in Bosnia.

Whilst we were looking on as mere spectators on our western frontier, a fresh insurrection broke out in the opposite direction in Bulgaria,† which thus became the theatre of fearful devastation and acts of cruelty. The results of Mussulman fanaticism made themselves felt in European Turkey, and assumed such dimensions in Constantinople amongst the class teaching the Koran, that these are now exercising a paramount influence on the destinies of the Empire within the metropolis.

All these symptoms leave little hope of pacification, and the state of affairs, instead of improving, becomes every day more perplexing, leave no hope to Servia of extricating herself from

* For Turkish Notification of the Declaration of War by Servia, see "State Papers," Vol. 67. Page 1241.

† On the 4th May, 1876, Sir H. Elliot reported that information had reached Constantinople that an Insurrectionary Movement had broken out in Bulgaria at the village of Otloukeui not far from Philippopolis.

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the difficult position in which she has been for nearly twelve months. Notwithstanding all these difficulties we have done nothing to embarrass the Porte or the great Powers in their attempted work of pacification; on the contrary, my Government supported numerous Bosnian refugees at a considerable sacrifice, we preserved order on our frontiers, and our army, which had been sent thither, was recalled. Affairs followed their natural course with us, and we gave no occasion to the Porte to mistrust us.

In spite of this the Ottoman Government surrounded our country with troops on all sides, from the mouth of the Timok to the mouth of the Drina. The Turkish army assumed a threatening attitude towards us, and, with its connivance, barbarous hordes of Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and Albanians made inroads into Servia, pillaging churches and peaceful inhabitants, threatening the latter, and frequently carrying off cattle, &c.

Brothers, for nearly a year you have suffered such acts of violence on our dear soil, entire districts have been compelled to act as watchmen, and protect their lives and families against pillaging forays. All our representations to Turkish authorities and to their Government have proved fruitless, and they continued to encircle Servia with their army, thus interfering with our commerce, and by putting a stop to our growing prosperity, compelled us to adopt exceptional measures.

Thus, without having war, we endure all the miseries of war.

Owing to your patience, to your respect to law, and to your obedience to my authorities, you refrained from giving vent to your just indignation at these numerous acts of violence. In the presence of such complications, can my Government be reproached with having carried out the resolutions of our "Skoupstchina," our National Assembly, in providing proper measures of defence for the security of the country, and still this is made a subject of reproach against us by the Porte, who has herself forced all these sacrifices upon us.

Brothers, without paying attention to your wounded feelings, I listened to the advice given me by the Guaranteeing Powers and continued in the path of reason and moderation, and I made you subdue your deep sentiments, but the Porte, instead of giving us credit for this forbearance, asked for an explanation on the subject of our armaments. Even then I endeavoured

to make a modest and conciliatory reply, and proposed sending a special Mission to Constantinople with a view to bring about a lasting peace between us and the Suzerain Imperial Government. By way of replying to this offer, the Porte decided on collecting a variety of irregulars on our frontier, savage hordes of Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and Albanians approached from various directions, and even barbarous Kurds from Asia were sent for evidently for no other object than that of exposing Serbia to the calamities of fire and plunder, of humbling us, and destroying our prosperity. The Porte unable to justify its own bad management to the world, is evidently seeking for some pretext to throw on us the responsibility for its own crimes, and she imagines that it would be a great boon if Serbia could only be annihilated; if a country whose institutions stand out in such striking contrast to those of the neighbouring Turkish Provinces could be made to disappear from the list of self-governing lands.

Brothers, were we to continue, after all this, in an attitude of forbearance, our moderation would be taxed as weakness, our silence considered as cowardice unworthy of the descendants of Doushan and of Milosh. Though a war between the Porte and the Servian people has become inevitable, I have, however, made representations at Constantinople, pointing out certain measures likely to pacify the disturbed provinces, and to extricate Serbia from the perilous position in which she finds herself through no fault of her own. I demanded that the Turkish troops and irregular hordes should be withdrawn, and I announced that the Servian army was about to enter the disturbed provinces in self-defence, in the name of the humane and brotherly sentiments which animate us towards our suffering brothers, to bring them peace and order and reorganise them on a basis of justice and equality without distinction of creeds. It behoves the Porte to say only one decisive word, and thus put an end to the effusion of blood.

Servian soldiers, we go into this war, not with any feelings of hatred or revenge, but merely impelled by a strong desire to restore peace amongst our brothers. Proud as you ought to be of the mission of freedom which has been assigned you by Providence in this portion of Eastern Europe, go forward, soldiers, hopefully and with confidence, using your arms only against those who oppose you. In crossing the frontier, do not forget that we shall adhere to the principle of the integrity of the

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Ottoman Empire, unless the opposition of the Imperial army should make our sacred cause depend on the fate of battles. Remember likewise that the provinces whither you are going are inhabited by brothers of the same race, ready to receive you as deliverers; some there are among them who have been estranged from us by difference of creed, but they still continue our brothers by race and language. Should any of these offer resistance, you must have recourse to arms; to those, however, as also to any of your enemies who are peacefully disposed, you must give protection for their lives, their families, their property, and their worship. This is my firm determination as well as your sacred duty, and by this means only can you gain the sympathy of the civilized world, and convince it that you deserve a better place among nations than the one which has hitherto been assigned you. Ours is a national movement, and there ought to be no room in it either for religious fanaticism or for social animosities; we bear with us the spirit of order, justice, and security; not that of destruction, incendiarism, or devastation. Strangers are to be treated by you with that spirit of hospitality which is innate in Slavs. Show respect to the frontiers of the neighbouring kingdom, and avoid every occasion of offence to the Imperial and Royal Government, which is entitled to our special gratitude for the generous assistance given to the Bosnians and Herzegovinians who took refuge on its soil.

Full of confidence in your courage and patriotic feelings, I go with you and as your leader; with us will go our brave countrymen, the Montenegrins, with my chivalrous brother, Prince Nicholas, at their head; we shall also have on our side the heroic sons of the Herzegovina and those of Bosnia, who have suffered centuries of cruel oppression. The laborious Bulgarians are only waiting for us; and the love of independence of the proud Greeks, the descendants of Themistocles and of Bozzaris, will not allow them to remain long inactive.

Forward, therefore, my brave soldiers.

In the name of Almighty God, the righteous Father of all people, for justice, liberty, and progress.

MILAN M. OBRENOVITCH IV.

[See Protocol of Peace between Turkey and Servia, 28th Feb., 1877, No. 480; and Servian Manifesto, renewing the War, 13th Dec., 1877, No. 508].

No. 464.—*DECLARATION of War by Montenegro against Turkey. Cetigné, 2nd July, 1876.*

(Translation.*)

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

I RECEIVED on the 26th instant, your Highness's telegram of the same date, and I thank you for the kind expressions contained therein.

I see with satisfaction that the Sublime Porte is inclined to appreciate with more justice my conduct in the affairs of the Herzegovina. I regret that I cannot accept with the same feelings the assurances which your Highness gives me respecting the aggressive and vexatious measures of which I complained in my despatch of the 13th ultimo.

Your Highness has not only been ill-informed, but positively deceived by the agents who have pretended to give him information, and who openly disobey his wishes. The blockade, although not formally notified, is none the less strictly enforced; if, for personal reasons, some Montenegrins are allowed to pass, on the other hand, great numbers are sent back to the frontier; those who proceed by the Lake to Scutari, are prevented from landing or expelled; localities in the Kaimakamlik of Antivari are also prohibited. The export of provisions is rigorously forbidden, which cannot be caused by famine in grain, which does not exist, inasmuch as if such reason had been true, the prohibition would have been announced, in accordance with custom and good relations.

Not only are provisions prevented to be exported, but the same extends to animals, raw produce, manufactured articles, all merchandise required by our mountaineers and supplies of which they generally obtain from Albania. As to the concentration of forces, your Highness has likewise received false reports; to cite two examples only, five days before the despatch of your telegram, a camp of one brigade was installed at half an hour's march from my frontier, on the western shore of the Lake of Scutari; on the same day a battalion disembarked at Scutari.

* For Turkish Notification (of the same date) of this Declaration of War by Montenegro, see "State Papers," Vol. 67. Page 1241.

Besides, your Highness cannot fail to perceive what strategic meaning we must necessarily give to the formally expressed intention of excluding the district of Niksitch from any eventual armistice. Whilst learning with satisfaction that the facts enumerated are, with the exception of the latter, independent of the will of your Government, I must frankly inform your Highness that we are not reassured.

The Montenegrin people are well aware that they are, from the very fact of their independence, subject to such enmity as their utter ruin only could satisfy, and from past experience they can recognise the signs which preceded former invasions. I can do no otherwise than to participate in their conviction, for I know full well that if I was not attacked two months ago, it is not due solely to the moderation of the late Government.

On the other hand, and if, bearing in mind the sacrifices of every kind imposed upon us by the war in the Herzegovina, I have abstained from expressing the feelings with which we take part in it, I should not have to inform you that our sympathies are with our co-religionists, who, although politically separated from us, are in fact our brethren in blood, in customs, and in past misfortunes common to us both.

Notwithstanding all this, resisting all solicitations and impulses, I have striven to fulfil my international duties. When Foreign Powers, taking upon themselves to plead with His Majesty the Sultan the Christian cause, requested me to be neutral, I took the engagement and have kept it. It is useless to revert to the details of the successive attempts at pacification, unless it be to record that I assisted to the best of my power, and that with the consent of the Powers, I accepted the office of representing the insurgents in all the negotiations which have taken place for the re-establishment of peace.

One thing only has been the result, the demonstration of the absolute impossibility of the Sublime Porte, notwithstanding the acknowledged sincerity of her good intentions, to give to her subjects of the revolted provinces the guarantees and institutions which alone could be reconciled with their legitimate aspirations and with the times in which we live. But from the nature of my co-operation in attempts at pacification, as well as from the general wish of the populations, powers have been given me and duties imposed upon me which dictate what I have to do. The very step which your Highness is pleased to

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take is a further proof that the circumstances are stronger than the pacific wishes of the Governments. Considering also the increasing dangers which threaten my country, from the force of circumstances, and the ineffectual war desolating countries having a right to my assistance, I find myself under the absolute necessity of taking a decisive step without further delay, with profound regret at finding myself reduced to that extremity, and convinced that the Sublime Porte, if she had been able to do so, would have wished to avoid it as well as myself.

I have now to announce to your Highness that the equivocal position of our relations, always strained, must from this day be replaced by the more defined situation of declared hostilities.

NICHOLAS,

Prince of Montenegro.

No. 465.—*TURKISH IMPERIAL HATT*, decreeing the formation of a General Council; declaring the necessity for Administrative, Financial, and Imperial Reforms; enjoining measures for the Pacification of Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Servia; and confirming Treaties with Foreign Powers. Constantinople, 10th September, 1876.

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(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(Official Translation.)

My Illustrious Vizier, Mehmed Ruchdi Pasha,

OUR well-beloved brother, the Sultan Murad V, having been forced, by the will of Providence, to give up the reins of the State and the Caliphate, we have ascended the throne of our august ancestors in conformity with the Ottoman Law.*

Knowing your well-known and tried patriotism, your perfect knowledge of the great interests of the State, we confirm you in the high post of Grand Vizier and President of the Council of Ministers. We confirm likewise all the Ministers and all the functionaries in their respective posts.

We have boundless confidence in the aid and assistance of the Almighty in all things and under all circumstances. We have no other desire nor thought than to consolidate the bases on which rest the grandeur and glory of our Empire, and to secure to all our subjects, without exception, the benefits of liberty, peace, and justice. We have the full hope and conviction that all our Ministers and all the officials in our Empire will on their side not fail to contribute to this result in conformity with our example.

* Sultan Abdul Aziz was deposed on the 30th May, 1876, and died on the 4th June following. He was succeeded by Sultan Murad V, who was deposed on the 31st August, and was succeeded by Sultan Abdul Hamed.

The origin and causes of the crisis through which our Empire is now passing, and which reproduces itself under different forms, are, it is true, manifold; but from whatever side they are regarded they may all be summed up under one head, viz., the imperfect execution of the laws which spring from the supreme edicts of the Cher'i, which is the fundamental base of our Empire, and the absolutism which every one has adopted, so to speak, as their rule in the conduct of affairs.

If, indeed, the irregularities, of which for some time past now the administration and finances of our country have felt the effects, have reached their present pitch; if public opinion shows itself distrustful with respect to our credit; if the tribunals have not yet arrived at securing the rights of individuals; if it has not been yet possible to turn to account the natural resources which all the world allow that our country possesses, for industry, commerce, and agriculture, these fruitful sources of welfare and general prosperity; if, lastly, all the measures hitherto adopted, as well in the interests of the country as with a view to secure to all my subjects, without exception, the benefits of individual liberty, have not acquired more consistency in spite of the sincere intentions which dictated them, nor attained the proposed result, through a succession of variations and changes, all this can only be attributed to one cause, and that is, that the laws have not been regularly and constantly observed.

This, therefore, should be the starting-place to-day for the measures which it is urgent should be adopted to settle the laws and regulations of the country on bases calculated to inspire confidence.

Establishment of a General Council.

For this purpose it is indispensable to proceed to the establishment of a General Council whose acts shall inspire the nation with all confidence, and shall be in accordance with the customs and capacities of the population of the Empire. This Council will have for its mission to guarantee, without exception, the faithful execution of the existing laws, or of those which shall be promulgated in accordance with the dispositions of the Cher'i, and with the real and legitimate wants of the country and nation, and to control the balance of the receipts and expenditure of the Empire.

The Council of Ministers is instructed to devote itself to a profound study of this important question, and to submit to me the result of its deliberations.

Public Offices.

Another obstacle to the good execution of the laws and regulations is the facility with which public duties are often entrusted to incompetent hands, and, further, the fact that they, the employés, are the object of frequent changes without any sufficient or legitimate reason, which entails very serious inconveniences both for the State and the transaction of business.

Henceforth every public office and function shall constitute a special career. To employ in the affairs of the State capable and competent persons; to tolerate no dismissal or unjustified removal from office; to establish gradually the responsibility of all kinds of functionaries, each in his respective sphere, this is the invariable rule to be adopted.

Education.

The material and moral progress that all the world agrees in recognising among European nations has been brought about, thanks to the spread of science and education. Now, as by their intelligence and natural dispositions, my subjects of all classes have in all respects, I am happy to state, special capacities for progress, and as the spread of education constitutes, in my eyes, a question as vital as it is pressing, you will take counsel without delay as to the best means of securing this important result by raising the amount of the supplies for allowances in a sufficient proportion and within possible limits.

Administrative, Financial, and Judicial Reforms.

Further, the administrative, financial, and judicial reforms of the provinces must be proceeded with immediately, so as to create for them a really normal position, and in conformity with the bases which shall be adopted for the central organization.

Pacification of Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Servia.

In addition to the troubles which broke out last year in Herzegovina and Bosnia, at the instigation of evilly-disposed

persons, the rebellion of Servia has come upon us. Considering that the blood shed on both sides is that of the children of one and the same country, we are deeply distressed by the continuance of this state of things. You will therefore have to take most effective measures to put an end to such a deplorable situation.

Confirmation of Treaties.

We confirm all Treaties concluded with the friendly Powers. While maintaining the faithful execution of them, you will make it your endeavour to consolidate more and more the relations of friendship which we entertain with those Powers.

Such are, in substance, my wishes, such my intentions. May the Almighty deign to crown our efforts with success !

Sunday, 23 Chaban, 1293 (10th September, 1876, n.s.).

[A Turkish Circular was issued to the Representatives of Foreign Powers, at Constantinople, on the 12th October, 1876 ; the purport of which is given in a Despatch from the Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus, dated 30th October, 1876. See page 2496 (No. 467).]

No. 466.—*TURKISH MEMORANDUM on the attitude of Serbia and Montenegro, and proposed Mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers. Conditions of Peace. Constantinople, 14th September, 1876.*

TABLE.

Homage to be paid by Prince of *Serbia* to the Sultan.

Fortresses to be Re-occupied by *Turkish* Troops.

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Indemnity. Tribute.

Railway:—*Belgrade* to *Nisch*.

Montenegro.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

THE Government of *Serbia*, taking advantage of the very exceptional favours which the solicitude of the Suzerain Court and the friendship of the Great Powers had secured for the Principality, has devoted itself to instigating, fomenting, and supporting the insurrectional movements of which *Bosnia*, *Herzegovina*, and *Bulgaria* have been the scene. In spite of the pacific protestations of which the administration of the Prince has been so lavish, armed bands, formed in *Serbia*, invaded on all sides the Ottoman territory.

The Ottoman Government, in order to repel these aggressions, found itself compelled to establish upon the frontier several whole *corps d'armée*, the maintenance of which has been a heavy burden upon the finances; and yet, in spite of the sacrifices which the situation imposed upon it, in spite of the incessant provocations to which it has been exposed, in spite of the insuperable obstacles which this attitude of *Serbia* has placed in the way of the pacification of the insurgent districts, the Ottoman Government, inspired by the wish to show itself throughout faithful to its engagements, not only avoided assuming a hostile initiative, but strove to its utmost to avoid giving *Serbia* any pretexts for legitimate complaint.

But the day came when *Serbia*, in despair of exhausting the patience of the Sublime Porte, at last threw aside the mask, and, dragging *Montenegro* into the struggle, openly declared war

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(Nos. 463, 464), which practically she had more or less carried on in disguise for several months past. Then we saw a people upon whom the Ottoman Empire had heaped immunities, privileges, and benefits of every kind, throw itself desperately upon the limitrophe provinces of the Ottoman Empire, to spread there misery and ruin; we saw a Vassal Prince, carried away by the popular folly, oblivious of the laws of honour and of loyalty; and Ministers who, rejecting the urgent advice of united Europe, did not hesitate to precipitate the Principality into the abyss in order to satisfy a lust for territory as reprehensible as it was chimerical.

The Ottoman Government was surprised by so sudden an attack, for, far from having inclosed Servia in a circle of iron; as had been asserted, it had up to that time only placed corps of observation upon the frontier, as it thought itself secure, in view of the agreement amongst the Powers, and their unanimous efforts at Belgrade in favour of peace; it required therefore a little time to bring into line the military forces destined to punish the revolt and bring home to the instigators of this attack the consequences of their signal ingratitude.

The fortune of war has declared itself in favour of justice, and the succession of bloody battles which have taken place during the last few weeks upon the banks of the Timok and the Morava leave the final issue of the struggle no longer in doubt.

The Imperial Government fully appreciates the humanitarian motives which impelled European diplomacy at so critical a moment to interpose its good offices, when appealed to by the Government of Belgrade. The friendly Governments who have communicated to the Sublime Porte their wish to see a speedy cessation of the bloodshed were sure to meet a proper response in this quarter, and therefore, with a view to see this wish realized as soon as possible, it is the duty of the Imperial Government to declare its conviction that, as long as the bases for the resumption of friendly relations shall not have been settled, a suspension of hostilities, which would certainly encounter most serious difficulties in being carried out, and would keep alive a spirit of uncertainty in people's minds, would only aggravate, without corresponding advantage, the situation of both sides, and would make it more than ever difficult to attain the end which the well-meaning mediation of the friendly Powers has

in view. The Imperial Government is therefore of opinion that it is in every respect more advisable to decline at the outset a preliminary measure which would in itself raise an additional difficulty, and rather at once to advance conditions upon which peace may be concluded, taking into consideration the difference in the state of things brought about by Serbia.

The Imperial Government, when it granted Serbia the right of self-administration, and finally gave up to it the duty of providing for its own defence, had in view the satisfying of all its aspirations, and trusted to the loyalty and wisdom of the population and its rulers. It hoped through the sense of benefits received to strengthen and not to loosen the bonds which unite this country to the Ottoman Empire, of which it forms an integral part. This presumption, however, was mistaken, and the Great Powers, our allies, will naturally be inclined to recognize the necessity of averting the return of evils of which we have just had such painful experience; the serious offence of which Serbia has been guilty towards the Suzerain Power, as well as towards the whole of Europe (No. 463), deserved severe punishment.

But the Imperial Government is ready once more to rise superior to resentments, however legitimate they may be, and to evince moderation. It does not wish that the Servian people should sink under the weight of the heavy responsibility which they have incurred. What it requires is that the future relations of Serbia to the Suzerain Power shall be freed from the danger formerly existing, and that the experiences we have gone through shall not be thrown away.

Impressed with this conviction, the Sublime Porte has carefully considered and studied the conditions upon which peace might be granted to Serbia, and, after full consideration, has finally determined upon the following terms:—

Homage to be paid by Prince of Serbia to the Sultan.

1. The person invested with the dignity of Prince of Serbia shall proceed to the capital to pay homage to His Majesty.

Fortresses to be Reoccupied by Turkish Troops.

2. The four fortresses, the custody of which only was entrusted by the Firman of 1283* (No. 404) to the Prince of Serbia, and the possession of which *ab antiquo* remained with

* 10th April, 1867.

the Imperial Government, shall be reoccupied by the Imperial Army, as was the case formerly; and on this head the dispositions of the Protocol of 4th September, 1862, are to be strictly adhered to (No. 338).

Militia to be Abolished. Maintenance of Order.

3. The Militia shall be abolished. The number of men necessary for the maintenance of order in the interior of the Principality shall not exceed 10,000, with two batteries of artillery.

Emigrants from Limitrophe Provinces.

4. As was stipulated in the Firman of 1249* (No. 169), Servia shall be bound to send back home all emigrants from the limitrophe provinces, and, with the exception of the fortresses which exist in Servia *ab antiquo*, all fortifications subsequently erected shall be completely rased.

Indemnity. Tribute.

5. Should Servia not be in a position to pay the indemnity, the amount of which is to be duly settled, the tribute now paid by the Principality shall be increased by the interest of the sum representing the indemnity,

Railway:—Belgrade to Nisch.

6. The Ottoman Government shall have the right of constructing and of working, either by its agents or by an Ottoman Company at its option, the line of railroad which is to connect Belgrade with the railway terminus at Nisch.

A careful consideration of the above conditions will lead to the conviction that the Imperial Government is exclusively animated with the wish to establish a work which shall last, and one which neither prejudices nor blind passions shall be able to destroy or endanger on the morrow of its inauguration.

There is not one of these conditions which is not called for by the most elementary principles of prudence and justice, not one which does not meet requirements keenly felt, not one, lastly, which can modify the situation which the Treaties have created for the Principality.

* December, 1833.

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The restrictions affect only those concessions which the Sublime Porte had spontaneously and directly granted to the Principality; they do not touch the common work of the Sublime Porte and the Powers, and hence they in no wise compromise the great interests, for the protection of which that work was designed.

The clause relating to the armed force and the Servian artillery, while it will enable the administration to preserve order in the interior, will save the country from onerous sacrifices. Serbia having no enemy to fear, the increase of her military forces and of her artillery can only have an hostile purpose as regards the Imperial Government.

As regards the clause relating to the reoccupation of the fortresses, to which clause the Sublime Porte more especially calls the attention of the Powers, this is only the reassertion of an incontestable right; and the possession of the said fortresses by the Ottoman troops is looked upon by public opinion, if not as the sole guarantee, at least as one of the most important and valuable which could be furnished in the interests of peace.

These considerations naturally present themselves, and the Imperial Government is conscious of not having gone beyond the object it proposed to itself.

Nevertheless, anxious to avoid all suspicion of concealed designs, and to give at the same time an evident proof of its faith in the work of mediation of the Powers, who were unanimous in deprecating Serbia's aggression, and are convinced of the necessity for peace, the Imperial Government, having thus explained what in its opinion is the just and necessary consequence of the respective positions taken up by the two parties in the legal point of view, declares that it leaves and refers the six conditions enumerated above entirely to the enlightened judgment and equitable appreciation of the six Mediating Powers; it entrusts to them the care of pondering the reasons which have dictated the six conditions as a means of preventing the return of similar misfortunes, and relies upon their feelings of exalted equity and wisdom.

Montenegro.

As regards Montenegro, the *status quo ante* will be adhered to.

As soon as the Mediating Powers shall have communicated

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to the Sublime Porte their opinion upon the aforesaid conditions, orders will be given within twenty-four hours for the suspension of hostilities, friendly relations will be resumed, and the two Principalities, benefiting by the moderation of the Suzerain Power, of which Europe will have been witness, will be restored to their normal condition.

Sublime Porte, 14th September, 1876.

No. 467.—*DESPATCH from the Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus, recording the Efforts made by the British Government to preserve Peace in Eastern Europe. Proposals respecting Armistice and Meeting of a Conference. London, 30th October, 1876.*

[Referred to in Russian Despatch of November 19, 1876
(**No. 474**).]

My Lord, *Foreign Office, 30th October, 1876.*

THE time has arrived when it may be useful that I should place on consecutive record the various efforts which Her Majesty's Government have made for the preservation of peace in Eastern Europe, so that the position taken up by them during the recent negotiations may be accurately defined.

Her Majesty's Government, having reason to believe that the good offices of the Powers would be acceptable to Servia and Montenegro, informed Mr. White, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, on the 14th of August, that, though they would not propose mediation unless it were asked for, he might suggest to Prince Milan that an application from him to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England.

On the 24th of August, a telegraphic despatch was received from Mr. White reporting that Prince Milan, in the presence of his Foreign Minister, had asked the Representatives of the Six Powers to transmit to their Governments his application for re-establishing peace between the Porte and Servia, and for a prompt cessation of hostilities with that view. His Highness added that it would be desirable to include Montenegro in the pacification.

Her Majesty's Government expressed their satisfaction at receiving this announcement, and lost no time in communicating it to the other Powers. They also instructed Sir H. Elliot to point out to the Porte the extreme importance of not losing this opportunity of restoring peace; since, if hostilities continued, the interference of some of the Powers seemed probable, and the consequences might be fatal to the Turkish Empire.

Some delay arose before the Prince of Montenegro's formal

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adhesion to the Servian request for good offices was received, and the assent of the Powers could be procured. This having been done, in order to obviate any question as to the mode of proceeding (the Austrian Government having objected to a collective note), Her Majesty's Government took the initiative on the 1st of September, by instructing Sir H. Elliot to propose at once to the Turkish Government an Armistice of not less than a month's duration, with a view to the immediate discussion of terms of peace,—the Armistice to include all combatants.

The other foreign Representatives at Constantinople supported Her Majesty's Ambassador in making these proposals. The Porte, however, objected to an Armistice, notwithstanding the strong representations which Sir H. Elliot was directed to address to them.

On the 14th of September, the Turkish Memorandum in answer to the proposals of mediation was received (**No. 466**). It stated the conditions of peace expected by the Porte from Servia as follows:*

“ 1. La personne investie de la dignité de Prince de Serbie devra venir dans la capitale pour rendre hommage à Sa Majesté.

“ 2. Les quatre forteresses dont la garde seulement avait été confiée par le Firman de 1283, 10th April, 1867 (**No. 404**), au Prince de Serbie, et dont la possession *ab antiquo* était demeurée au Gouvernement Impérial, seront réoccupées par l'armée Impériale comme par le passé; et sur ce point on se conformera strictement aux dispositions du Protocole du 4 Septembre, 1862 (**No. 338**).

“ 3. Les milices seront abolies. Le nombre des forces nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre dans l'intérieur de la Principauté ne dépassera pas 10,000 hommes avec deux batteries d'artillerie.

“ 4. Ainsi qu'il est stipulé dans le Firman de 1249, Décembre, 1833 (**No. 169**), la Serbie sera tenue de renvoyer dans leurs foyers les habitants des provinces limitrophes qui y émigreraient, et, excepté les forteresses qui existent en Serbie *ab antiquo*, toutes fortifications postérieurement établies devront être complètement démolies.

“ 5. Si la Serbie ne se trouve pas à même d'acquitter l'indemnité dont le montant sera déterminé, le tribut actuel de la

* For Translation, see **No. 466**, page 2484.

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Principauté sera augmenté de l'intérêt de la somme représentative de l'indemnité.

“ 6. Le Gouvernement Ottoman aura le droit de faire construire et exploiter par ses agents ou par une Compagnie Ottomane, à son choix, la ligne qui devra relier Belgrade au chemin de fer aboutissant à Nisch.”

The Memorandum added, however, that the Imperial Government submitted these conditions entirely to the judgment and equitable consideration of the Mediating Powers. With regard to Montenegro, the Porte held to the *status quo*. As soon as the Powers had expressed their judgment on the conditions, the Porte would give orders to suspend hostilities within twenty-four hours, and resume friendly relations with the two Principalities.

A message was at the same time delivered to the Dragomans of the Embassies to the effect that, without waiting for the opinions of the Powers, the order for the cessation of hostilities would be sent that night or the next morning. The demand of the Powers being thus practically complied with, it was hoped that they would induce the two Princes to give corresponding orders.

Her Majesty's Government expressed satisfaction on the receipt of this intelligence, and instructions were sent to Mr. White to press the Servian Government, if necessary, to give similar orders. It was stated, however, that, in so doing, Her Majesty's Government must not be understood as acquiescing in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte, some of which they considered to be quite inadmissible.

On the 17th of September, Sir A. Buchanan reported that the Porte had notified in writing a suspension of hostilities until the 25th.

On the 18th, Sir H. Elliot was instructed to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accepted the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an Armistice, in the confidence that it would be further extended in case of necessity, and that they had reason to believe from the language held by the Russian Ambassador that his Government would take the same view.

In the meanwhile Her Majesty's Government, finding that the Porte objected to an Armistice, but were prepared to negotiate terms of peace, had been in communication with the other Powers respecting the provisions which might properly form the

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basis of pacification, and which I had, in the first instance, communicated to the Russian Ambassador. They were—

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Guarantees of a similar kind against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

And it was added that any modification of the Treaty of Paris unfavourable to Servia, the resumption of the right of Turkey to garrison Servian fortresses, or the deposition of Prince Milan, would be regarded as inadmissible.

The Austrian Government having objected, in the first instance, to the idea of autonomy as applied to the insurgent provinces, it was explained that by the phrase “local or administrative autonomy,” as applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, nothing more was intended by Her Majesty’s Government than a system of local institutions which should give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There was no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Upon receiving this explanation, the Austrian Government declared themselves prepared to give, in principle, their complete consent to the proposals, expressing at the same time their desire that it should be formally recorded that the reforms already required from and accepted by the Porte in the Andrassy note should form the basis of the “local autonomy.”

The other Powers, while they were unanimous in rejecting the proposals of the Porte, also declared themselves willing to join in recommending the basis proposed by Her Majesty’s Government.

Sir H. Elliot was therefore instructed, on the 21st of September, to state formally to the Porte that the following were the provisions which seemed to Her Majesty’s Government proper to form the basis of pacification:—

1. The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2. That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be

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understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary state.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

His Excellency was instructed to add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th of February last would be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as might be applicable, for Bulgaria.

He was further to state that, as the continuance of hostilities, while the conditions of peace were in consideration between the Powers and the Porte, would be obviously inexpedient, an early arrangement should be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

After conferring with his colleagues, Sir H. Elliot fulfilled the instructions given to him, and communicated, on the 25th of September, the conditions of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government, which were supported a few days later by the Representatives of the other Powers, including Russia.

On the 24th of September, Sir H. Elliot reported that the Porte had not yet consented to a formal Armistice, but was willing to prolong the suspension of hostilities until the 2nd of October.

Prince Milan, however, rejected the proposal, professing himself ready to conclude a regular Armistice, but not an arrangement like the one hitherto in operation, which he considered ill-defined.

Her Majesty's Government, in reply, expressed their surprise that Serbia, after having asked for the mediation of the Powers, should have thought fit, without further consultation, to refuse the prolonged suspension of hostilities offered by Turkey; and this at a time when endeavours were making to obtain for her more favourable terms of peace than the issue of the campaign gave her a right to expect. They thought it proper to add that any attempt on the part of the Servian commanders to renew active operations would throw on Serbia the responsibility of the consequences, and forfeit the support of England. Hos-

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ilities were, nevertheless, resumed, and, in explaining the action of Russia in the matter, Count Schouvaloff told me that, though his Government had advised the Servian Government not to renew hostilities, yet that they could not press the matter, as they had from the first required the conclusion of a regular Armistice.

It had, in the meantime, become evident that the Turkish Government entertained strong objections, both to the signature of a Protocol promising reforms in the insurgent provinces, by which they said the prestige and authority of the Porte in all parts of the Empire would be impaired, and to the expression of "local autonomy" as applied to those reforms.

On the 26th September, Count Schouvaloff communicated to me proposals from the Russian Government that, in the event of the terms of peace being refused by the Porte, Bosnia should be occupied by an Austrian and Bulgaria by a Russian force, and the united fleets of the Powers should enter the Bosphorus. The Russian Government stated themselves, however, to be willing to abandon the proposal of occupation if the naval demonstration was considered sufficient by Her Majesty's Government.

General Sumarokoff arrived in Vienna at the same time with a similar proposal.

On the 3rd of October, a suggestion was made in conversation with Count Schouvaloff that, in case of an unfavourable reply from the Porte to the proposals then before it, the Powers should fall back upon their original demand for an Armistice.

Count Schouvaloff said that he would telegraph this suggestion at once to Livadia, and on the following day his Excellency called and read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow which he had received, although he was not certain that it was in answer to his message. Prince Gortchakow's telegram was to the following effect:—

A regular suspension of hostilities of sufficient length not having been established, and the negotiations for peace having encountered unexpected difficulties at Constantinople, the contest had been renewed in the valley of the Morava.

The Imperial Government could not be indifferent to the bloodshed thus caused, and the Emperor proposed to the Guaranteeing Powers that it should be arrested by immediately proposing an Armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties, so

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as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

I had no difficulty in submitting this proposal to my colleagues, and informed Count Schouvaloff that Her Majesty's Government had decided to give their support to the proposal of an Armistice of not less than a month as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for a basis of peace. They had, I said, on the other hand, been unable to concur in the measures of occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

Sir Henry Elliot was accordingly instructed, on the 5th, in the event of the terms of peace which had been proposed by the Powers being refused, to press upon the Porte as an alternative to grant an Armistice of not less than a month, and to state that, on the conclusion of an Armistice, it was proposed that a Conference should immediately follow. He was further to intimate that, in case of the refusal of an Armistice, he was instructed to leave Constantinople, as it would then be evident that all further exertions on the part of Her Majesty's Government to save the Porte from ruin would have become useless.

Her Majesty's Government, at the same time, informed the Governments of the other Powers of this proposal of an Armistice, and the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the Armistice should be followed by a Conference.*

The plan of renewing the demand for an Armistice received unanimous support, but the suggestion of a Conference gave rise to some objections and inquiries. The Austrian Government, in a despatch, the substance of which was communicated to me by Count Beust on the 9th of October, while stating their desire not to thwart the action of England, requested information on the following points:—

1. Whether the Porte is to take part in the Conference.
2. Where the Conference is to meet.
3. If the Conference is to be composed of the Foreign Ministers of the respective countries, or of Plenipotentiaries.
4. What is to be the programme of the Conference.

They stated that it would depend upon the information derived from the answers to these questions whether they could

* See "State Papers," Vol. 67, page 269.

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waive the objections they entertained to the idea. Until then they were of opinion that a Commission at Constantinople, such as had previously been suggested, would be a preferable plan, and would more profitably employ the time allowed by the Armistice.

As Count Beust did not ask for an immediate reply to the above queries, I told his Excellency that I must reserve my opinion on the first point, namely, whether or no the Porte should be represented in the Conference. It would be necessary to ascertain the views of other Powers, which were still unknown to me.

As to the second question, I must equally reserve a final expression of opinion; but, personally, I was inclined to think that Constantinople would be on various accounts the most convenient place of meeting.

As to the third, I considered that the personal attendance of the various foreign Ministers at a Conference, whose sittings might last some time, would be in many respects unadvisable.

As to the fourth, I agreed in the view, which I understood to be that of Count Andrassy, that a Conference without a basis was not likely to lead to good results; and I thought that a programme, more or less definite, ought to be agreed upon before it met; but the terms of such programme would require care in framing, and I could only say that it should be submitted to the Powers in due course.

On the other hand it appeared that the Russian Government were likely to stipulate for the exclusion of the Turkish Representative from at least the first portion of the deliberations of the Conference—a step which seemed to make it undesirable that Constantinople should be the place of meeting.

In a despatch addressed to your Excellency on the 11th of October, I reverted to the subject of the influx of Russian volunteers into Servia, which had already formed the subject of conversation between Count Schouvaloff and myself. I pointed out the embarrassment caused to the Roumanian Government by the passage of these volunteers through their territory, and stated that Her Majesty's Government considered that the Government of Prince Charles had some right to complain that their conscientious efforts to remain neutral were thus thwarted. I went on to say that the Government of Great Britain would be the last to suggest the repression of sympathy with a popular cause as long as it did not exceed the limits prescribed by inter-

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national law, but that the presence of Russian officers and soldiers in the Servian army had assumed proportions little short of national assistance.

If the Emperor of Russia was as sincerely desirous of a speedy and peaceful termination of the war as Her Majesty's Government believed him to be, he could scarcely be insensible to the difficulties thus thrown in the way of a settlement.

The assistance so openly given to Serbia must tend to excite irritation and suspicion in the minds of the Turkish Ministers, and at the same time to raise the hopes of the Servian Government and render them less inclined to listen to reasonable terms. Beyond this, there was the danger that the presence of so large a foreign element in the Servian army might lead to a spirit of insubordination and constitute its commanders into military chiefs, independent and impatient of the control of Prince Milan's Government.

These considerations Her Majesty's Government wished to press on the serious attention of the Emperor and his advisers, and you were instructed to take an opportunity of expressing yourself to the Russian Government in this sense.

On the 12th of October, the Turkish Government communicated to the Representatives of the Mediating Powers at Constantinople a Note, in which they stated that, taking act of the proposal of the Powers for the re-establishment of peace with Serbia and Montenegro on the basis of the *status quo ante*, and while declaring themselves ready to submit to the decision of the Powers on the conditions they had themselves proposed, they were ready to consent to the conclusion of a regular Armistice. They considered, however, that it should extend to six months from the 1st of October to the 31st of March. They requested, at the same time, that the Powers should name delegates to arrange the terms of the Armistice on the spot, and stated that they were ready at once to give the necessary instructions to their troops, and that then the delegates would have to come to an understanding with the commanders of the contending armies on the details of the Armistice, and with respect to the necessity of not permitting the Servians to reoccupy the positions now in the possession of the Imperial troops. The Porte further hoped that the Powers would take measures to put a stop to the introduction of arms and munitions of war into the Principalities, as well as to the influx of volunteers, and felt

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confident that the Powers, while impressing on the Principalities the necessity of scrupulously observing the obligations imposed by the armistice, would be able to prevent all attempts on their part to encourage directly or indirectly the insurrectionary movements in the neighbouring provinces, or to furnish aid to the insurgents.

On the same day a general scheme of reform was promulgated for the whole Ottoman Empire, the substance of which was communicated to me on the 13th by the Turkish Ambassador. These reforms consisted in the establishment of a Senate and of a Representative Assembly to vote the budget and taxes, a revision of the system of taxation, the reorganization of the provincial administration, the full execution of the Law of the Vilayets (**No. 462**), with a large extension of the right of election, and other measures of reform, including the practical measures which had been desired to be introduced into Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Immediately on learning by telegraph from Sir H. Elliot the intention of the Porte to grant a six months' Armistice, I pressed upon Count Schouvaloff and Count Beust the importance of their Governments inducing Servia to accept the Armistice. I also urged this through Her Majesty's Embassies at Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, and Rome, and sent instructions in the same sense to Belgrade and Montenegro.

The Russian Ambassador expressed his doubts whether the Armistice would be accepted at Livadia. I thought it right to warn his Excellency that, however strong might be the feeling of national indignation against Turkish cruelties, it would be superseded by a very different sentiment if it were once believed by the English nation that Constantinople was threatened. I said that, rightly or wrongly, the conclusion to which every one here would come would be that the rejection by Russia of the Turkish proposal indicated a fixed purpose of going to war; and I entreated him to omit no effort to make his Government understand the light in which this resolution would be viewed by the English people.

On the 12th, I learned from Lord Lyons that the French Government would send immediately instructions to the French Agent at Belgrade to urge the Servians to accept the Armistice, and, on the 13th, the Austrian Ambassador informed me that his Government accepted the proposal of six months' Armistice,

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would do all in their power to procure its acceptance by other States, and would use their best efforts in that sense both at Belgrade and with the Prince of Montenegro. They still declared, however, that they could not determine their course as to a Conference without knowing the programme. They considered the exclusion of the Turkish Representative contrary to the Treaty of Paris, and they hoped that the questions of Armistice and Conference might be kept separate, and the Armistice agreed to without being complicated by considerations as to future negotiations.

On the 12th, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had expressed himself against a long Armistice, and, when reminded by Sir H. Elliot that his Government had asked a short time previously for one of three months, replied that circumstances had changed, and he did not believe that his Government would be satisfied with the present proposal; and, on the 16th, Count Schouvaloff communicated to me the telegram from Prince Gortchakow, dated Livadia, 14th October, of which the following is a translation:—

“ We do not think an Armistice of six months necessary or favourable to the conclusion of a durable peace, which we desire. We cannot exercise pressure on Servia or Montenegro to make them consent to the uncertainty of their difficult situation being so prolonged. Lastly, we consider that the financial and commercial position of all Europe, already intolerable, would suffer still more from this delay. We must insist (*‘devons insister’*) on an Armistice of a month or six weeks, the original proposal of England, subject to its being prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows it to be necessary.”

I told Count Schouvaloff that I had received this communication with regret, and pointed out to him that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was for an Armistice of “not less than a month;” no objection being taken on our part to a longer term.

The Italian Government likewise demurred to the proposal for a long Armistice.

Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government thought it right to make an appeal to that of Germany, which had hitherto remained uncommitted to either view. I accordingly requested the German Ambassador to lay the matter before the Cabinet of Berlin, and to inquire whether they saw an

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opportunity of exerting their influence to procure the acceptance of some compromise which might avert the danger, now to all appearance imminent, of an open rupture between Turkey and Russia.

On the 19th instant, his Excellency communicated to me Prince Bismarck's reply, which was to the effect that, although an armistice of six months appeared to the German Government acceptable, and they would have wished Russia to accept it, they did not think that, taking into account the position they had held till then, they would be justified in exercising a pressure on the resolutions of other Powers. Prince Bismarck suggested, however, that perhaps an armistice of six weeks might offer some chance of a solution.

In this state of things, as it was evident that any efforts to bring about the acceptance of the Turkish proposal of a six months' armistice by Servia and Montenegro were checked by the attitude of Russia, Her Majesty's Government felt that further efforts on their part were useless. I therefore informed the Russian Ambassador that, having accepted the Turkish proposal for a six months' armistice, Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to withdraw their acceptance or to make any new proposition. I stated, however, that Her Majesty's Government would offer no objection to a shorter term if the Porte were willing to consent to it, but that they would not press the Porte to do so.

I have since learned from Sir Henry Elliot that the Porte has informed the Russian Government that they agree to an armistice of six weeks, on condition that, if the negotiations are not ended by that time, it should be renewed for a similar term, and again for two months if the second period passed without result.

In the foregoing summary of the negotiations, I have indicated the successive steps which Her Majesty's Government have taken to secure an agreement among the Powers. Upon the application of Servia for their good offices they first obtained the support of all the Powers to a proposal to the Porte of an armistice of not less than a month, and, on the Porte advancing terms of peace as a counter-proposal, Her Majesty's Government submitted to Russia in the first instance, and then to the other Powers, provisions which might in their opinion form the basis of pacification, and which likewise secured the concurrence of

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the Powers. When subsequently difficulty occurred in obtaining the acceptance of these provisions by the Porte, Her Majesty's Government, again in concert with Russia, recommended that the proposal of an Armistice should be reverted to, and pressed it upon the Porte in the strongest manner of which diplomatic action will admit, at the same time suggesting a Conference—a suggestion which, from what had previously passed, Her Majesty's Government had reason to suppose would also prove acceptable to the Russian Government. If obstacles have been interposed which have frustrated the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, they have not been occasioned by any failure on their part to meet objections in a conciliatory spirit. The object which has been sought throughout has been to arrive at a speedy and durable pacification.

Her Majesty's Government have felt that the continuance of the present war, which was commenced in defiance of the public remonstrances of Russia and the Powers, is all the more lamentable from being unnecessary, since there are no avowed ends to be attained by it which could not be better and more surely arrived at by peaceable discussion. It has long been evident that, so far as the improvement of the condition of the disturbed districts of Turkey and of the non-Mussulman population generally throughout the Empire is concerned, the unaided action of Servia and Montenegro could have no practical effect, and that, from the time when the question passed into the hands of the Mediating Powers, further bloodshed served only to add to the distress and misery of the population.

Her Majesty's Government have done all that has been in their power to procure the cessation of hostilities and the re-establishment of peace for which Servia and Montenegro appealed to their good offices. They believed that this would be accomplished by a prolonged armistice, and supported that proposal accordingly, feeling convinced that such an armistice meant peace; nor could they regard the period as unreasonable, inasmuch as the discussions which took place in 1861 with regard to the constitution of the Lebanon occupied from the 22nd of January to the 9th of June. They regret that other counsels have prevailed, and that the uncertainty of the situation has thus been continued, with the commercial and agricultural distress which must ensue from it in Servia and Montenegro and the adjacent districts. They are unable to see how the con-

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stantly impending possibility of war can be otherwise than ruinous to all the countries concerned, and would hail with satisfaction any proposal which might bring such a state of things to an end.

They cannot, however, consider that it lies with them to advance any fresh propositions, and, while most anxious to co-operate with the other Powers in any measures of pacification in which the Powers may concur, must refrain from pledging themselves to anything which may impede their liberty of action hereafter should the rights and interests of this country be affected.

Your Excellency will read this despatch to Prince Gortchakow, and give his Excellency a copy of it, stating at the same time that Her Majesty's Government feel assured that he will find in it a convincing proof of the earnest desire which they have shown to act in concert with the Russian Government, and to maintain in all respects the good relations subsisting between Great Britain and Russia.

I am, &c.,
DERBY.

No. 468.—*RUSSIAN ULTIMATUM to the Porte, demanding the immediate conclusion of an Armistice between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro. Buyukderé, $\frac{19th}{31st}$ October, 1876.*

(Translation.)

General Ignatiev to Safvet Pasha.

$\frac{19th}{21st}$ October, 1876.

THE Undersigned, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, is instructed to make the following communication to his Excellency Safvet Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Sublime Porte:—

The events which for the last year have been taking place in some provinces of the Ottoman Empire, and which have resulted in a war between Turkey and the Principalities of Servia and Montenegro, could not be a matter of indifference to the Imperial Cabinet. They found a keen echo in the Russian nation, united as it is by many bonds and secular traditions to the Christian populations of the Balkan Peninsula. His Majesty the Emperor has shared the sympathies of his people, and has applied himself, in concert with the other Great Cabinets, to the re-establishment of order and peace.

As the Guaranteeing Powers are agreed in laying down as bases of pacification the maintenance of the *status quo ante* in the Principalities of Servia and Montenegro, the military operations, which are at this moment being carried on there by the Ottoman troops, give rise to a useless effusion of blood.

As the carnage has latterly assumed proportions which wound the feelings of humanity without a possibility of any result being arrived at, the Emperor, my august master, cannot longer tolerate it, accompanied as it is by the delays which attend the negotiations for the conclusion of an Armistice of limited length.

Armistice Demanded of from Six Weeks to Two Months.

The Undersigned is therefore instructed to announce to the Sublime Porte, in the name of His Majesty, that if, in the space

[Russian Ultimatum. Armistice Demanded.]

of forty-eight hours after the delivery of the present note, an effective and unconditional Armistice of from six weeks to two months, embracing all the combatants, is not concluded, and if peremptory orders are not transmitted to the commanders of the Ottoman troops to immediately arrest all military operations, it will become his duty to leave Constantinople with the whole staff of the Imperial Embassy.

The Undersigned begs his Excellency Safvet Pasha to accept the personal expression of his high consideration.

IGNATIEW.

No. 469.—*TURKISH REPLY to Russian Ultimatum demanding an immediate Armistice in Servia and Montenegro. 1st November, 1876.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Safvet Pasha to General Ignatiew.

1st November, 1876.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, has had the honour to receive the note which his Excellency the Ambassador of His Majesty the Emperor of all Russia has had the goodness to address him, dated the 31st October (**No. 468**).

The Undersigned hastens to declare before all things that the Sublime Porte ever attaches the greatest importance to the maintenance and consolidation of the friendly relations so happily existing between the two neighbouring Empires, and that it could have nothing more at heart than the avoidance of anything that might be likely to endanger those relations.

The Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan deplores more than any one the calamities of the war and the effusion of blood. It thought that it was giving a proof of its sincerely pacific disposition in proposing to fix in Servia and Montenegro a delay of a long duration for the desired armistice.

Armistice for Two Months agreed to.

However, to give a fresh proof of its conciliatory disposition, and of its deference to the wishes expressed by the Imperial Cabinet of St. Petersburg, as well as by the other Great Powers, the Sublime Porte consents to the conclusion of an unconditional Armistice of two months, to date from this very day. It has, in consequence, transmitted orders to the Commanders of the Imperial troops to arrest immediately military operations throughout the whole theatre of the war. As for the details respecting this Armistice, the Undersigned waits for the opportunity of settling these latter, in concert with your Excel-

[Reply to Russian Ultimatum. Armistice.]

lency and the Representatives of the other Great Mediating Powers.

While having the honour of bringing the above to the knowledge of his Excellency the Ambassador of His Majesty the Emperor of all Russia, the Undersigned seizes, &c.

SAFVET.

No. 470.—*DESPATCH from Lord A. Loftus, giving an Account of a Conversation with the Emperor of Russia at Livadia, respecting the Affairs of the East. Yalta, 2nd November, 1876.*

TABLE.

Proposed Conference at *Constantinople*.
 Retrospect of past Negotiations.
 Proposed Armistice.
 Proposed Bases of Peace.
European Concert. Possibility of *Russia* being compelled to act alone.
England's suspicion of *Russian* Policy. Repudiation of any designs on *Constantinople*, or of any desire of conquest or aggrandisement.
 Will of *Peter the Great* and aims of *Catherine II.*
 Repudiation by Emperor of *Russia* of any desire to acquire *Constantinople*.
 Proposals for occupation of *Bosnia* by *Austria*, of *Bulgaria* by *Russia*, and of a naval demonstration at *Constantinople*.
 Condition of Christians.
 Repudiation of any idea of Conquest of *India* or of possession of *Constantinople*.
 Pretensions of *Servia* and *Roumania*.
Russian Volunteers in *Servian* Ranks.
 Proposed Armistice.
 Proposed Conference and object.
 Guarantees for execution of Reforms.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**

(Extract.)

I HAD an audience of the Emperor of Russia to-day at Livadia, when His Majesty was pleased to receive me with his customary kindness and cordiality. After some gracious inquiries after my family, His Majesty at once opened on the Eastern question.

His Majesty stated that he had that morning received a telegram from Constantinople, announcing the probable acceptance of the armistice, and he read to me another telegram reporting that orders had been already sent by the Porte to their Commanders to suspend military operations. This, His Majesty observed, was very satisfactory.

On my observing on the sudden change which had taken place between the Sunday when I had seen the Chancellor and

* Received by the Earl of Derby, 14th November, 1876.

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the following day, when the ultimatum (No. 468) was dispatched to General Ignatiew, His Majesty said that this had been caused by the intelligence he had received of the complete discomfiture of the Servian army, and his fear that it might be followed by similar atrocities as those which had occurred in Bulgaria.

His Majesty had decided on addressing an ultimatum in order to prevent a further unnecessary effusion of blood, and he observed that no one was more astonished to receive this instruction than General Ignatiew himself.

Proposed Conference at Constantinople.

His Majesty expressed very earnestly his wish that the Conference should meet with the least delay, and that instructions should be immediately sent by the several Governments to enable the Ambassadors at Constantinople to deliberate at once on the necessary preliminaries of peace, taking as the basis the proposals which had been submitted by your Lordship.

Retrospect of Past Negotiations.

The Emperor then, with great calmness and lucidity, entered on a retrospective view of the past negotiations. He stated that he had given every proof of his desire for peace, and that he had done everything in his power to aid in arriving at a pacific solution of the existing complications.

Proposed Armistice.

He had supported your Lordship's previous demand for an armistice of six weeks, which was refused by the Porte, and was followed by a mere suspension of hostilities for ten days, which proved wholly illusory. His Majesty considered that this refusal of the Porte to a collective appeal of Europe was a "sufflet" given to the Powers. He had patiently submitted from a wish not to separate from the European concert.

Proposed Bases of Peace.

Your Lordship then submitted the proposals to serve as a basis for peace. To these, also, His Majesty has assented, and they were equally agreed to by the other Powers.

To these proposals the Porte had replied evasively, declining

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to convey her acceptance in the form of a Protocol, and notifying that a wholesale measure of reform was under consideration, which would be applied indiscriminately to the Empire at large, and which even went beyond the demands of the Powers.

On this refusal your Lordship had, simultaneously with a similar proposal from His Majesty's Government, addressed to the Porte a demand for an armistice of not less than a month, for the purpose of enabling the Powers to deliberate on the conditions of peace. His Majesty's Government had supported this demand in conjunction with the other Powers, and to this the Porte had replied by a counter-proposal, offering an armistice of five months, which, under the circumstances, and for the reasons given by his Government, could not be supported or recommended to the belligerent parties.

Thus, said His Majesty, the Porte, by a series of manœuvres, had rendered ineffectual all the attempts of collective Europe for arresting the war and for securing a general pacification.

His Majesty then said that, if Europe was willing to receive these repeated rebuffs from the Porte, he could no longer consider it as consistent either with the honour, the dignity, or the interest of Russia.

European Concert. Possibility of Russia being compelled to act alone.

He was anxious not to separate from the European concert, but the present state of things was intolerable and could no longer be allowed to continue, and unless Europe was prepared to act with firmness and energy he should be obliged to act alone.

England's Suspicion of Russian Policy. Repudiation of any Designs on Constantinople, or of any desire of Conquest or Aggrandisement.

His Majesty then referred more especially to his relations with England. He said he regretted to see that there still existed in England an "inveterate" suspicion of Russian policy, and a continual fear of Russian aggression and conquest. He had on several occasions given the most solemn assurances that he desired no conquest; that he aimed at no aggrandisement, and that he had not the smallest wish or intention to be possessed of Constantinople.

Will of Peter the Great and Aims of Catherine II.

All that had been said or written about a will of Peter the Great and the aims of Catherine the Second were illusions and phantoms; they never existed in reality, and he considered that the acquisition of Constantinople would be a misfortune for Russia. There was no question of it, nor had it ever been entertained by his late father, who had given a proof of it in 1828, when his victorious army was within four days' march of the Turkish capital.

Repudiation by Emperor of Russia of any desire to acquire Constantinople.

His Majesty pledged his sacred word of honour in the most earnest and solemn manner that he had no intention of acquiring Constantinople, and that, if necessity should oblige him to occupy a portion of Bulgaria, it would only be provisionally, and until peace and the safety of the Christian population were secured.

Proposals for Occupation of Bosnia by Austria, of Bulgaria by Russia, and of a Naval Demonstration at Constantinople.

His Majesty here reverted to the proposal addressed to Her Majesty's Government for the occupation of Bosnia by Austria, of Bulgaria by Russia, and of a naval demonstration at Constantinople, where, he said, Her Majesty's fleet would have been the dominant Power. This, His Majesty thought, ought to be a sufficient proof that Russia entertained no intention of occupying that capital.

Condition of Christians.

His Majesty could not understand, when both countries had a common object, namely, the maintenance of peace and the amelioration of the condition of the Christians, and when he had given every proof that he had no desire for conquest or aggrandizement, why there should not be a perfect understanding between England and Russia—an understanding based on a policy of peace, which would be equally beneficial to their mutual interests, and to those of Europe at large.

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Repudiation of any idea of Conquest of India or of Possession of Constantinople.

"Intentions," said His Majesty, "are attributed to Russia of a future conquest of India and of the possession of Constantinople. Can anything be more absurd? With regard to the former it is a perfect impossibility, and as regards the latter I repeat again the most solemn assurances that I entertain neither the wish nor the intention."

His Majesty deeply deplored the distrust of his policy which was manifested in England, and the evil effects it produced, and he earnestly requested me to do my utmost to dispel this cloud of suspicion and distrust of Russia, and charged me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the solemn assurances he had repeated to me.

I assured the Emperor that Her Majesty's Government were perfectly cognizant of, and fully appreciated, His Majesty's pacific intentions. I observed that the proposed occupation of Turkish territory had worked a change in the public opinion of England, and had produced alarm.

I expressed a hope that the acceptance of the armistice would now enable the Powers to bring about a satisfactory pacification, and that it was of essential importance that the European concert should be maintained. I observed that the question of autonomy appeared to me as likely to offer the chief difficulty, and that, as it more directly affected Austrian interests, care should be taken not to exceed those limits which could be accepted by Austria. I said that in Bosnia and Bulgaria there was a large Mussulman and Catholic population, and mostly of the proprietary class, and their interest must be taken into account.

Pretensions of Servia and Roumania.

I then referred to the reported pretensions of Servia and Roumania to be erected into independent kingdoms. Such a measure, I observed, would be the first step towards a dissolution of the Turkish empire in Europe. History, I said, recorded the existence in former times of a kingdom of Bohemia, a kingdom of Servia, and a kingdom of Poland; they had all disappeared, and their dissolution had been chiefly caused by internal dissensions. If the pretensions of Servia and Roumania should be now admitted, it would be the creation of so many small

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Polands, which very probably would drift into republics, which would neither be for the peace nor security of the neighbouring States.

The Emperor said that there was no question of establishing kingdoms of Servia and Roumania, and that it would be a folly to do so.

The Proclamation of Prince Milan (**No. 463**) had been the act of the army, which His Majesty thoroughly disapproved, and in consequence His Majesty had advised Prince Milan not to visit the head-quarters. He had, however, received a telegram from the Prince excusing himself for not obeying His Majesty's advice, on the grounds that duty to his country obliged him to go to his army under the present adverse circumstances.

Russian Volunteers in Servian Ranks.

A reference to the number of Russian volunteers in the Servian ranks induced me to observe that it had been very instrumental in producing the feverish excitement in Russia. To this His Majesty replied that he had permitted the officers to go provided they left the Russian service, and that he had hoped by so doing to calm the agitation ("de jeter de l'eau froide" was His Majesty's expression). His Majesty added that a great many Russian officers had fallen, and that the enthusiasm for the Servians had very much calmed down.

The Emperor then said that he would now sum up the general observations he had made in the following points:—

Proposed Armistice.

1. The armistice which he hoped had been accepted.

Proposed Conference and Object.

2. The immediate meeting of a Conference, the principal object of which was to agree upon the introduction of such reforms in the three Provinces as will safeguard the interests of the Christian populations, and give them that autonomy as may be necessary for that purpose.

Guarantees for Execution of Reforms.

3. That the Porte shall give effective guarantees for the execution of these reforms.

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His Majesty then took leave of me in the same cordial and gracious manner in which he had received me.

AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

[On the 21st November, 1876, a formal request was made by the Russian to the British Government that the Emperor's Message might be published, and it was accordingly inserted in the "London Gazette" of the same evening. In a despatch to Lord A. Loftus of the same date, the Earl of Derby observed that the publication of this despatch "might be opportune, since the last few days had brought us the intelligence of the mobilization of a considerable Russian Force, and of the emission of the New Russian Loan for 100,000,000 roubles."]

No. 471.—*DESPATCH from the Russian Government, containing Pacific Assurances of the Emperor. Livadia, 3rd November, 1876.**

TABLE.

Supposed Russian designs on Constantinople. Will of Peter the Great.

Supposed Russian designs on India.

Repudiation by Russia of Designs of Territorial Annexation.

Condition of Christians.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

(Private.)

M. le Comte,

Livadia, ^{22nd October}
^{3rd November}, 1876.

Supposed Russian Designs on Constantinople. Will of Peter the Great.

I SEE with profound surprise by your last letter that ideas of our coveting Constantinople and of the Will of Peter the Great continue to haunt the minds of some people in England.

Supposed Russian Designs on India.

I confess I thought these absurdities were out of date, and had been dismissed, together with the conquest of India by Russia, to the domain of political mythology.

Repudiation by Russia of Designs of Territorial Annexation.

How often have not the Russian Emperors publicly asserted that no territorial annexation enters into their policy; that they would be much embarrassed by it, and that the maintenance of the *status quo* of the East was the best combination. In our form of Government the word of the Sovereign is not, like a Parliamentary declaration, revocable at the will of a majority. Their personal loyalty is at stake. How many times, moreover, have not facts confirmed this. If Russia had these desires she would do what annexing Powers do. She would quietly make her preparations, and act on the first favourable occasion. Had she not such an opportunity in 1829, in 1848, and 1870, when the attention and the forces of Europe were engaged elsewhere?

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, 18th November, 1876.

[Pacific Assurances of Russia.]

What proofs, then, is it necessary to give English Ministers of a disinterestedness, founded not on political virtue, but on reason and good sense. If they would just forget for one moment that they are English, and place themselves at a Russian point of view, we would ask them whether, conscientiously, they would advise the Imperial Government to seek the possession of Constantinople. There can be no doubt as to the reply. Why deny us the practical good sense they themselves have?

Condition of Christians.

The only rational combination for Russian interests is to leave the keys of the Black Sea in hands feeble enough not to close to Russia that commercial outlet nor to menace her security. The Turkish rule fulfilled this programme. Is it our fault if the Turks have taken advantage of it by rendering their sway intolerable to their Christian subjects? Has not the English policy contributed to the abuse by exciting the suspicions of the Porte against Russia through her own rivalry, and in assisting her to make force the sole basis of her power?

It is really painful to see two great States, which together might regulate European questions for their mutual advantage and the benefit of all, excite themselves and the world by an antagonism founded on prejudices or misunderstanding.

The results are obvious. English public opinion itself has been aroused; and much more so, and more naturally, the national and Christian sentiment of Russia, for we are too near to these countries and have too many relations with them to confine ourselves to merely theoretical sympathies.

This imposes on the Emperor duties from which His Majesty cannot shrink. But these duties are shared by all civilized Europe. What prevents England from fulfilling her part by joining with us for the protection of the Christians and sharing with us their gratitude and sympathy? The Eastern question is not only a Russian question: it involves the repose of Europe, peace and general prosperity, humanity, and Christian civilization.

Surely the space is large enough for England to place herself side by side with Russia? Have we not invited her there by inviting in the Straits the presence of her squadrons? What further pledge are we to give of our having no pretension to the exclusive possession of Constantinople?

[Pacific Assurances of Russia.]

The Emperor has just expressed himself in this sense, to Lord A. Loftus with the precision and loyalty of his sovereign words (**No. 470**). The English Ambassador will most certainly report them.

If this assurance requires to be repeated, do so, my dear Count, in the most emphatic terms. You will be certain to interpret faithfully the intentions of our august Master.

I have, &c.

GORTCHAKOW.

[See further Russian Despatch of 19th November, 1876,
No. 474.]

No. 472.—*CIRCULAR addressed by the Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Rome, and Constantinople, containing proposals for a Conference to be held at Constantinople on the affairs of Turkey. Foreign Office, 4th November, 1876.*

My Lord,

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government believe, from the communications which they have received from the Powers, that there is a general feeling that the only solution of the questions arising out of recent events in Turkey is to be found in a Conference, but that there is some hesitation felt in formally proposing it.

Under these circumstances, and with the view of bringing about a satisfactory settlement of those questions, Her Majesty's Government have determined to renew the suggestion made by them on the 5th ultimo, and to take the initiative in proposing that a Conference should be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte should take part, and each Government should be at liberty to appoint two Plenipotentiaries to represent it.

Her Majesty's Government further submit as the basis for the deliberations of the Conference :—

1. The independence and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. A declaration that the Powers do not intend to seek for, and will not seek for, any territorial advantages, any exclusive influence, or any concession with regard to the commerce of their subjects, which those of every other nation may not equally obtain.

This declaration was made on September 17th, 1840, in the Protocol for the Pacification of the Levant (**No. 192**), and again, August 3rd, 1860, in regard to the pacification of Syria (**No. 321**).

3. The bases of pacification proposed to the Porte on the 21st of September, viz. :—

(a.) The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

(b.) That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina a

[Proposed Conference at Constantinople.]

system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against mal-administration in Bulgaria. The reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th of February last (**No. 458**), to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and so far as they may be applicable for Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency should propose to the Government to which you are accredited a Conference on these bases, and you may state that if this proposal meets with general acceptance, Her Majesty's Government will lose no time in appointing a Special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference.

If the other Powers thought it advisable, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Guaranteeing Powers before the opening of the Conference. These discussions to be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference.

I am, &c.,

DERBY.

[The Proposal for a Conference was accepted by Turkey at a General Council held at Constantinople on the 18th November, 1876, and the Marquis of Salisbury, having been appointed Special Ambassador to attend the Conference (conjointly with Sir Henry Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople), left England on the 20th of the same month. The General Instructions with which his Lordship was furnished are to be found in the "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 1064.]

No. 473.—*SPEECH of the Emperor of Russia to the Representatives of the Nobles and Communal Council of Moscow on the State of Affairs in Turkey. Moscow, 10th November, 1876.*

(Referred to in the Russian Manifesto of 24th April, 1877,
No. 461.)

I THANK you for the sentiments you have been good enough to express towards me in reference to the present political state of affairs. The situation has now become more clearly defined than before, and I am ready now to receive your address with satisfaction. It is already known to you that Turkey has yielded to my demands for the immediate conclusion of an Armistice in order to put an end to useless slaughter in Servia and Montenegro. In this unequal struggle, the Montenegrins have, as on all previous occasions, shown themselves to be real heroes. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of the Servians, notwithstanding the presence of our volunteers in their ranks, many of whom have shed their blood for the Slavonian cause. I know that all Russia most warmly sympathizes with me in the sufferings of our brethren in religion and race, but the true interests of Russia are dearer to me than all, and I should wish to the uttermost to spare precious Russian blood from being shed. This is the reason why I have striven, and shall still strive, to obtain a real improvement of the lot of the Christians in the Balkan peninsula by peaceful means. In a few days conferences will commence in Constantinople between the representatives of the six Great Powers to settle the conditions of peace. My most ardent wish is that we may arrive at a general agreement, but should this not be achieved, and should I see that we cannot obtain real guarantees for carrying out what we have a right to demand of the Porte, I am firmly determined to act alone, and I am convinced that in this case the whole of Russia will respond to my appeal should I consider it necessary and should the honour of the country require it. I am also convinced that Moscow, as heretofore, will lead the van by its example. May God help us to carry out our sacred mission!

[State of Affairs in Turkey.]

[On the 13th November, 1876, Prince Gortchakow announced, in a despatch to Count Schouvaloff, a copy of which was communicated to the Earl of Derby on the 18th of the same month, that the Emperor of Russia had, in view of the horrible massacre of Christians which had taken place in Turkey, deemed it necessary to mobilize a portion of his army, although His Majesty was firmly resolved, for his part, to seek after and to endeavour to obtain by all the means in his power the purposes laid down by agreement amongst the Great Powers. It was added that His Imperial Majesty did not wish for war, and would do his utmost to avoid it; but that he was determined not to halt until the principles which had been recognized by the whole of Europe, as just, humane, and necessary, and which public opinion in Russia had taken up with the greatest energy, had been fully carried out, and secured by efficient guarantees. See also Note, page 2512.]

No. 474.—*RUSSIAN DESPATCH accepting proposals for a Conference and repeating Pacific Assurances of the Emperor. St. Petersburg, 19th November, 1876.*

TABLE.

Proposed Measures of Military and Naval Occupation.
Proposed Armistice.
Proposed Conference.
Condition of Christians.
Guarantee of Reforms.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

M. le Comte,

St. Petersburg, 17th November, 1876.

LORD A. LOFTUS has read to us and given us a copy of the despatch addressed to him by Lord Derby, under date of the 30th October (No. 467).

Its object is to recapitulate the efforts made by the Cabinet of London with a view to the re-establishment of peace in the East.

We remark with satisfaction that it at the same time recognizes the eagerness shown by the Imperial Cabinet to act in harmony with England.

We have never ceased to work for a general understanding of the Great Powers as the only guarantee for a pacific solution of the Eastern difficulties, and our first care has been to open ourselves to the London Cabinet.

In the month of August last year, foreseeing the dangers of the coming insurrection, and fearing to see it transformed into the Eastern question, I instructed you at Vevey to draw the attention of the English Government to it on your return to London. But at this period the Government of Her Britannic Majesty did not appear to attach to it the necessary importance.

Austria, more directly interested, listened to our offers of

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, 27th November, 1876.

[Proposed Conference. Pacific Assurances of Russia.]

joint action for the prevention of these dangers, and came to an understanding with us to submit to the acceptance of the Great Powers measures of pacification.

The proposals contained in Count Andrassy's despatch of the 30th December (**No. 456**) obtained the support of the Cabinet of London, although they were considered not sufficiently efficacious, and thus was established the basis of the general concert which we desired.

But when experience had shown that the plan of reforms drawn up at Vienna was not practicable for want of the means of carrying it out, and when the Three Imperial Courts proposed to the Great Powers to develop this programme by adding thereto the sanction of the guarantees formulated in the Berlin Memorandum (**No. 461**), the London Cabinet considered it its duty to reject those proposals without examining them, without discussing them, and without substituting for them any other proposition (**No. 462**).

Thus was interrupted the work of appeasement and conciliation to which we had lent our efforts, and the consequences thereof have been terrible.

Since that time the Imperial Cabinet has neglected nothing which lay in its power to re-establish the general understanding, and it has adhered to the greater part of the propositions made by England. If certain differences have manifested themselves between the two Cabinets in the different stages of the negotiation, they are due to circumstances, and not to their intentions.

We delight to find the proof of it even in the steps upon which they have not been able to agree, namely, the military and naval measures of occupation and the six months' armistice.

Proposed Measures of Military and Naval Occupation.

As regards the first, in proposing to combine measures of military occupation with the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus, and even to limit these measures to the maritime occupation of the Straits, if that was considered sufficient, the Imperial Cabinet has shown its entire disinterestedness and its special deference to England, naturally called upon to play a preponderant part in all maritime action.

Proposed Armistice.

With reference to the second, the Imperial Cabinet did not consider that it had any right to impose on Servia and Montenegro a condition which tended to prolong their painful and onerous situation, without offering them any guarantee of an equitable and substantial peace.

If the London Cabinet had exchanged ideas with us before expressing its adhesion to this proposition, we would have frankly stated our views, and perhaps thus we might have avoided an ostensible difference of opinion, which has necessarily had the effect of diminishing the respect of the Porte for the European concert.

But these slight differences disappear before the mutual desire for an understanding which exists between the two Cabinets, as confirmed by Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State.

Proposed Conference.

For us that is the essential thing; thus we have seen with a sincere satisfaction that the London Cabinet has deviated from the strict reserve which it appeared to have imposed upon itself at the date of Lord Derby's despatch, by assuming since then the initiative in bringing forward a proposition for the convocation of a Conference and in fixing its bases and mode of procedure. We have agreed to this most willingly, and the London Cabinet may depend on our co-operation in the endeavour to arrive by agreement at a pacific solution of the present crisis.

It is because we are animated by this sincere desire for a good understanding that we think it right to indicate frankly, and without any reserve, the points on which our views differ from those of Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State with regard to the actual position of affairs.

The two Cabinets are agreed upon the necessity of restoring peace in the East, and preserving that of Europe by putting an end to the deplorable state of Turkey.

Condition of Christians.

Lord Derby recognizes, as we do, that in order to arrive at a real and lasting pacification it is necessary to improve in an

efficacious manner the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan by real and practical reforms.

Guarantee of Reforms.

He recognizes equally with us the insufficiency of reforms on paper, and the indispensable necessity of guarantees for their execution.

We differ only in opinion as to the means of realising this object, which is one common to all Europe.

The London Cabinet would reconcile it with the letter of stipulations concluded in former times, in another situation and with other views, without taking into account the twenty years which have elapsed, and the painful experience which they have brought.

This experience has shown on the clearest evidence that European action in Turkey has been reduced to impotency by the stipulations of 1856 (No. 264), and that the Porte takes advantage of this state of things to perpetuate the system so ruinous for her and for her Christian subjects, so disastrous to the general peace, so revolting to the sentiments of humanity and to the conscience of Christian Europe, which she has pursued for twenty years with the certainty of complete impunity.

At different conjunctures the Great Powers have had to depart from these absolute principles by intervening directly in the affairs of Turkey, notably in Syria, in the united Principalities, in Servia and Candia, and their action has obtained partial and momentary results.

But the primary causes of the evil exists permanently, and, becoming general, were bound to end sooner or later in the consequences which the Imperial Cabinet has not ceased for twenty years to point out to the foresight of Europe.

To-day the evidence of facts is incontrovertible. Never has diplomacy been more agitated about Eastern questions than during the past year. Never has Europe been more troubled, never have its peace, its interests, its security been more seriously menaced. Never have the violent deeds by which the Turks have responded to its efforts at conciliation and pacification been more odious and perpetrated in vaster proportions. Never have they more strikingly laid bare the extent and the incurable character of the evil which consumes Turkey and endangers the security of Europe.

If the Great Powers wish to accomplish a real work, and not expose themselves to the periodical and always aggravated return of this dangerous crisis, it is impossible that they should persevere in a system which permits the germs of it to exist and develop with the inflexible logic of facts.

It is necessary to escape from this vicious circle and to recognize that the independence and integrity of Turkey must be subordinated to the guarantees demanded by humanity, the sentiments of Christian Europe, and the general peace.

The Porte has been the first to infringe the engagement which she contracted by the Treaty of 1856 with regard to her Christian subjects (No. 264). It is the right and duty of Europe to dictate to her the conditions on which alone it can on its part consent to the maintenance of the political *status quo* created by that Treaty, and since the Porte is incapable of fulfilling them, it is the right and duty of Europe to substitute itself for her to the extent necessary to ensure their execution.

Russia can less than any other Power consent to renew the experiences of palliatives, of half measures, of illusory programmes, which have led to the results which are present to all, and which react on her tranquillity and internal prosperity. But if she is more directly, more sensibly interested in putting an end to it by real and adequately guaranteed improvements, she none the less considers this question one of general interest, calling for the concert of the wishes of all the Powers with a view to its pacific solution.

With reference to the personal views which she brings into the pursuit of this object, they are free from all exclusive *arrière pensée*. The most positive assurances in this respect have repeatedly been given by the Imperial Cabinet; your Excellency has been formally charged by my letter of the 22nd October (3rd November, No. 471) to renew them to Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State in the most categorical terms.

His Majesty the Emperor has confirmed them at Livadia to Lord A. Loftus, with the authority of his sovereign word (No. 471).

The Cabinet of London cannot entertain any doubt in this respect, and we hope that it will not delay to place the English nation in a position to form the same conviction by publishing the report of its Representative.

[Proposed Conference. Pacific Assurances of Russia.]

Your Excellency is authorized to read and give a copy of the present despatch to Lord Derby.

We would fain believe that Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State will also find in it the proof of our sincere desire to act in concert with the Government of Great Britain, so that the principles upon which the two countries have agreed as the basis of the pacification of the East may not remain, as in the past, a dead letter, a barren programme, without sincerity or efficacy, leaving constantly suspended over the relations of the two countries and over the peace of Europe the menace of the dangers which disturb them to-day.

I have, &c.

GORTCHAKOW.

No. 475.—*PRELIMINARY MEETINGS of the Representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, for the Re-establishment of Peace between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro, and for the Amelioration of the General Situation in the East. Constantinople, 11th—22nd December, 1876.**

ABSTRACT OF DELIBERATIONS OF MEETINGS.

1ST PRELIMINARY MEETING. 11TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Meeting of Representatives of *Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia.*†

Re-establishment of Peace between *Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro.* Amelioration of the General Situation in the East.

Presidency (the *Russian* Ambassador, Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique). First Secretary of *French* Embassy charged with drawing up the Minutes.

Secrecy of Deliberations. Speech of President (*Russian* Ambassador at *Constantinople*):—Christian Population of the *Balkan Peninsula*; *British* Proposals of Terms of Peace; Reforms; *Status quo ante bellum*. "Autonomy" at first suggested for *Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria*, but subsequently altered.

Groundwork of Deliberations:—

1. Conditions of Peace between *Turkey and Servia and Montenegro.*

2. Administrative Systems for *Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria.*

Servia. Decision with regard to Terms of Peace between *Turkey and Servia*:—

1. Evacuation.

2. Prisoners of War.

3. Amnesty.

4. Islands of the *Drina.* *Little Zvornik and Zakar.*

Montenegro. Decision with regard to Terms of Peace between *Turkey and Montenegro*:—

1. Cessions to *Montenegro* on *Herzegovinian* side:—*Sutorina, Nicksich, &c.*

* The Earl of Derby's Instructions to the Marquis of Salisbury, on his Lordship's proceeding to Constantinople, were dated 20th November, 1876. See "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 1064.

† The Representatives were:—

For Great Britain—The Marquis of Salisbury and Sir Henry Elliot.

For Austria-Hungary—Count Zichy and Baron de Calice.

For France—Count F. de Bourgoing and Count de Chaudordy.

For Germany—Baron de Werther.

For Italy—Count L. Corti.

For Russia—General N. Ignatiev.

For the full text of these Preliminary Meetings, see Parliamentary Paper, Turkey, No. 2 (1877).

[Preliminary Meetings at Constantinople.]

ABSTRACT OF DELIBERATIONS OF MEETINGS.

2. Cession to *Montenegro* on *Albanian* side:—Fortress of *Spouz*, *Kutchka-Kraina*, &c.
 3. Access of *Montenegro* to the Sea. Navigation of the *Boiana*, &c. *Spitza* to be retained by *Turkey*.
 4. Suzerainty of the *Porte* over Territories ceded. Religion of *Musulman* Inhabitants.
- Acceptance of Arrangements with regard to *Montenegro* by Plenipotentiaries of *Austria-Hungary*, and *Germany*, *ad referendum*.
Bosnia. Consideration of question deferred.

2ND PRELIMINARY MEETING. 12TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Discussion as to how far Resolutions of Meeting are obligatory.
 Heads of Proposals of Chapters. Eventual organization of *Bosnia* and *Herzegovina*:—Contributions in kind; forced Labour; Disarmament; Police.
 Question of Union of Provinces under same Local administration reserved.
Bulgaria. Selection of Officials:—Tithes and Taxes. Massacres. Excesses in Sandjaks of *Slivno* and *Tirnovo*, and in *Caza* of *Cazanlik*. Conduct of *Bashi-Bazouks* in Sandjak of *Philippopolis*.
 Petition from *Bulgarians*. Acts of violence in *Macedonia* and *Old Servia*.
 Decision with regard to *Bosnia*, *Herzegovina*, and *Bulgaria* postponed.

ANNEX No. 1. *Bosnia and Herzegovina*.,, No. 2. *Bulgaria*.

3RD PRELIMINARY MEETING. 13TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Montenegro. Acceptance by Representatives of *Austria-Hungary* and *Germany* of Decisions of Meeting respecting *Montenegrin* Territory. Neutralization of *Ottoman* Forts on the *Boiana*. Proposed Mission of *Montenegrin* and *Servian* Agents to *Constantinople*.
Bulgaria. Law of the Vilayets. Bases for an Organization. Police. Nomination of the *Mutessarifs*. Appointment of a *Christian* Governor-General. As to formation of *Bulgaria* into one Province or two separate Vilayets. *Russian* Ambassador strongly supports question of Unity of *Bulgaria*, and points out objections to its division into two Governments. Meeting prefer organization into two separate Provinces. *Russian* Ambassador not opposed to arrangement under certain conditions. Organization of the Magistracy. Election of Judges. Finances. Revenues of *Bulgaria* and general *Ottoman* Debt. Special Committees to be appointed to prepare Terms of Peace between the *Porte*, *Servia* and *Montenegro* and the Organizations for *Bosnia*, *Herzegovina*, and *Bulgaria*.

ANNEX. *Bulgaria*. Basis for an Organization.

4TH PRELIMINARY MEETING. 14TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Bulgaria. Direct and Indirect Taxes.
Montenegrin Boundary: The *Zuhci*.

[Preliminary Meetings at Constantinople.]

ABSTRACT OF DELIBERATIONS OF MEETINGS.

Regret expressed by *Russian* Ambassador at *Montenegro* not being allowed a Port. Note read on the Navigation of the *Boïana* and *Turkish* Forts near *Scutari*.

Application from Prince of *Servia* through *Russian* Ambassador for admission of a *Servian* Delegate to the Conference; refused.

Special Committees selected: one for Organization of *Bosnia* and *Herzegovina*, and the other for *Bulgaria*.

Preparation of Conditions of Peace between *Turkey*, *Servia*, and *Montenegro* entrusted to one of the *French* Plenipotentiaries.

Guarantees required for ensuring execution of Conclusions of Conference.

Memorandum read by *Russian* Ambassador, who maintains necessity of presence of a material Foreign Force to defend Christians against violence of Mussulmans.

Opposition of *British* Plenipotentiaries to Military Occupation by Guaranteeing Powers.

Russian Ambassador, whilst disclaiming any desire for exclusive *Russian* influence, or any monopoly of occupation, still maintains absolute necessity of a material Guarantee to secure execution of Reforms.

Discussion as to Number and Nationality of Troops required for Occupation. *Roumanian* Troops proposed by *Italian* Plenipotentiary, supported by *Russian* Ambassador; but proposal rejected.

Belgian Troops suggested by one of the *French* Plenipotentiaries. Observations of *Russian* Ambassador. Plan accepted *ad referendum*;—

Annex 1. *Bulgaria*. Note on the Taxes. Revenues of Vilayets of *Adrianople* and *Salonica*.

Annex 2. *Montenegro*. Boundary. (Map.)

5TH PRELIMINARY MEETING. 18TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Bulgaria. Two Maps, tracing limits of the two Provinces to be organised, laid before the Meeting by the *Russian* Ambassador.

Montenegro. Map showing new Boundaries also laid by *Russian* Ambassador. Question of partial Vassalage in respect of Territory ceded, deferred.

Plans drawn up by Special Commissions for *Bosnia-Herzegovina* and *Bulgaria*, examined.

Bosnia-Herzegovina. Farming of Tithes. Successor to Governor-General. Suspension of Functionaries. Change of Religion. Local Christian Militias.

Bulgaria. Instructions for the *Commission Internationale de Surveillance*. Separate Commissions for *Bosnia-Herzegovina* and for *Bulgaria*, with a Delegate from each Country for each. Arms supplied to *Mussulmans* and *Circassians* since 1867 to be returned into Depôts. Arms for Local Militia to be returned after training. Institution of a foreign material Force accepted by *Russian* Ambassador *ad referendum*. Suspension of Employés. Repatriation of Emigrants.

Agrarian Question. Amnesty. Departure of *Circassians* for *Asia*.

Conditions of Peace between the *Porte*, *Servia*, and *Montenegro* presented, and accepted with modifications.

[Preliminary Meetings at Constantinople.]

ABSTRACT OF DELIBERATIONS OF MEETINGS.

6TH PRELIMINARY MEETING. 19TH DECEMBER, 1876.

British Government accept in principle plans for employment of from 3,000 to 6,000 *Belgian* Troops, and for reorganization of *Bosnia-Herzegovina* and *Bulgaria*. Foreign Corps to be called an Escort and not a Gendarmerie. Journey and Maintenance of Escort to be paid out of Revenues of *Bosnia-Herzegovina* and *Bulgaria*, under guarantee of the Powers. 1,000,000 francs for 1st Contingent of from 2,000 to 3,000 men. Eventual disposition of force. Organization of International Commission. Presidency. Place of Meeting.

Doyen of Diplomatic Corps authorised to inform Ottoman Government that after 21st December Plenipotentiaries of Guaranteeing Powers would be ready to commence Conference with Plenipotentiaries of the Sublime Porte.

7TH PRELIMINARY MEETING. 20TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Ottoman Government informed of readiness of Representatives of Guaranteeing Powers to commence Conference with *Turkish* Representatives.

Declaration of *Russian* Ambassador: Programme drawn up by common consent was for the *Russian* Government an "irreducible minimum." Telegram read from *Russian* Chancellor announcing determination of the Emperor to obtain effective and palpable improvement of the lot of the Christians. Amendments made in Projects for Organization of *Bosnia, Herzegovina*, and *Bulgaria*:—1. Contingent Dismissal of Governors-General. 2. Nomination of Judges. 3. General Supervision of Commission. 4. Rebuilding of Churches and Convents. New Administration to be installed within three months after decision arrived at by Conference. Suggestion of *British* Plenipotentiary as to Punishment for Extortion and Corruption. Proposal of *Italian* Plenipotentiary for appointment of Mixed Commission of Christian and Mussulman Lawyers to consider question of Legal Reforms. Pressing necessity admitted for proposed Reforms. Prolongation of Armistice.

8TH PRELIMINARY MEETING. 21ST DECEMBER, 1876.

Deputation from *Macedonian Greeks* to *Russian* Ambassador in favour of their co-religionists. Refusal of Plenipotentiaries to discuss the question. Question considered as to meeting being vested with powers of Mediation. Decision of Representatives to present collectively to the Porte for its acceptance the five instruments which they had drawn up.

ANNEX 1. Conditions of Peace to be interposed between the Porte, *Servia*, and *Montenegro*.

- „ 2. Proposed Organization for *Bosnia-Herzegovina*.
 - „ 3. Proposed Organization for *Bulgaria*.
 - „ 4. Instructions for International Commission in *Bosnia*.
 - „ 5. Instructions for International Commission in *Bulgaria*.
- Prolongation of Armistice.

[Preliminary Meetings at Constantinople.]

ABSTRACT OF DELIBERATIONS OF MEETINGS.

9TH PRELIMINARY MEETING. 22ND DECEMBER, 1876.

Notification of Sublime Porte of intention to send Plenipotentiaries to the full Conference, and 23rd December named for day of meeting.

Observations of *Russian* Ambassador. "Irreducible minimum" demanded in favour of Christians of the East no longer represents wishes of one Power, but is the common work of united *Europe*.

Guarantee of Expenses of Passage of Neutral Troops. Observations of Ambassadors. Documents reporting Deliberations of Meetings to be laid before *Turkish* Representatives at first meeting of full Conference.

Order of Discussion in full Conference. Power reserved by Ambassadors to agree among themselves on questions raised.

Sittings of Preliminary Meeting closed.

Speech of President. Thanks of Plenipotentiaries to Doyen of Diplomatic Body.

[Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria - Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, sat in Conference at Constantinople on the Affairs in the East from the 23rd December, 1876, till the 20th January, 1877; and an Abstract of their Proceedings is given at page 2541 (No. 477).]

No. 476.—*CONSTITUTION of the Ottoman Empire.*
 $\frac{11}{23}$ th December, 1876.*

ARTS.

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* The Ottoman Parliament was opened for the first time, by a Speech from the Sultan, on the 19th March, 1877. See "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 817.

[Constitution.]

- 96 } Finance. Taxes. Budget.
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 97 } Budget and Court of Accounts.
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(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

The Ottoman Empire.

ART. I. THE Ottoman Empire comprises present territory and possessions, and semi-dependent (*privilégiés*) provinces. It forms an indivisible whole, from which no portion can be detached under any pretext whatever.

ART. II. Constantinople is the capital of the Ottoman Empire. This city possesses no privilege or immunity peculiar to itself over the other towns of the Empire.

Sultan, "Supreme Caliph."

ART. III. The Ottoman Sovereignty, which includes in the person of the Sovereign the Supreme Caliphate of Islamism, belongs to the eldest Prince of the house of Osman, in accordance with the rules established *ab antiquo*.

ART. IV. His Majesty the Sultan, under the title of "Supreme Caliph," is the protector of the Mussulman religion. He is the Sovereign and Padisha of all the Ottomans.

ART. V. His Majesty the Sultan is irresponsible; his person is sacred.

ART. VI. The liberty of members of the Imperial Ottoman Dynasty, their property, real and personal, and their Civil List during their lifetime, are under the guarantee of all.

Sovereign Rights of Sultan.

ART. VII. Among the Sovereign rights of His Majesty the Sultan are the following prerogatives:—He makes and cancels

[Constitution.]

the appointments of Ministers ; he confers the grades, functions, and insignia of his Orders, and confers investiture on the chiefs of the privileged provinces, according to forms determined by the privileges granted them ; he has the coining of money ; his name is pronounced in the mosques during public prayer ; he concludes Treaties with the Powers ; he declares war and makes peace ; he commands both the land and sea forces ; he directs military movements ; he carries out the provisions of the Cheri (the sacred Law), and of the other laws ; he sees to the administration of public measures ; he respites or commutes sentences pronounced by the Criminal Courts ; he summons and prorogues the General Assembly ; he dissolves, if he deems it necessary, the Chamber of Deputies, provided he directs the election of new members.

*Public Law of the Ottomans.**Personal Liberty.*

ART. VIII. All subjects of the Empire are called Ottomans, without distinction, whatever faith they profess ; the *status* of an Ottoman is acquired and lost, according to conditions specified by law.

ART. IX. Every Ottoman enjoys personal liberty on condition of not interfering with the liberty of others.

ART. X. Personal liberty is wholly inviolable. No one can suffer punishment, under any pretext whatsoever, except in cases determined by law, and according to the forms prescribed by it.

Religion.

ART. XI. Islamism is the State Religion.

Religious Liberty.

But, while maintaining this principle, the State will protect the free exercise of all faiths professed in the Empire, and uphold the religious privileges granted to various bodies, on condition of public order and morality not being interfered with.

The Press.

ART. XII. The press is free, within limits imposed by law.

Commercial and other Companies.

ART. XIII. Ottomans have the power of forming commercial

[Constitution.]

companies, industrial or agricultural, within limits imposed by law and statute.

Right of Petition.

ART. XIV. One or more persons of Ottoman nationality have the right of presenting petitions in the proper quarter relating to the breaking of law and regulation, done either to their own or public detriment, and may likewise present in protest signed petitions to the General Ottoman Assembly, complaining of the conduct of State servants and functionaries.

Education.

ART. XV. Education is free.

Every Ottoman can attend public or private instruction on condition of conforming to the law.

Schools.

ART. XVI. All schools are under State supervision.

Proper means will be devised for harmonizing and regulating the instruction given to all the Ottomans, but without interfering with the religious education in the various districts.

Equality before the Law. Public Offices.

ART. XVII. All Ottomans are equal in the eye of the law. They have the same rights and owe the same duties towards their country, without prejudice to religion.

ART. XVIII. Eligibility to public offices is conditional on a knowledge of Turkish, which is the official language of the State.

ART. XIX. All Ottomans are admitted to public offices, according to their fitness, merit, and ability.

Taxes.

ART. XX. The assessment and distribution of the taxes are to be in proportion to the fortune of each taxpayer, in conformity with the laws and special regulations.

Property.

ART. XXI. Property, real and personal, of lawful title, is guaranteed. There can be no dispossession, except on good public cause shown, and subject to the previous payment, according to law of the value of the property in question.

[Constitution.]

Inviolability of Domicile.

ART. XXII. The domicile is inviolable. The authorities cannot break into any dwelling except in cases prescribed by law.

Tribunals.

ART. XXIII. No one is bound to appear before any other than a competent Tribunal, according to statutory form of procedure.

Property. Forced Labour. Contributions in Time of War.

ART. XXIV. Confiscation of property, forced labour ("corvée"), and mulcting ("djéruné"), are prohibited. Nevertheless, contributions lawfully levied in time of war, and measures rendered necessary by the exigencies of war, are exempt from this provision.

Taxes and Imposts.

ART. XXV. No sum of money can be exacted under the name of a tax or impost, or under any other title whatever, except by virtue of a law.

Torture and Inquisition.

ART. XXVI. Torture and inquisition, under any form, are wholly and absolutely forbidden.

Ministers of the Crown.

ARTS. XXVII to XXXVIII.

Public Functionaries.

ART. XXXIX. All appointments to various public functions shall be made in conformity with the regulations which shall determine the conditions of merit and capacity required for admission to employment under the State. No functionary appointed under these conditions can be dismissed or transferred; unless it can be proved that his conduct legally justifies such removal; unless he shall have resigned, or unless his retirement is considered indispensable by the Government.

Officials who may have given proof of good conduct and uprightness, as well as those whom the Government may have thought it indispensable to place on half-pay, shall have a right either to promotion, or to a pension, or to half-pay, according to the terms which will be laid down in a special regulation.

ART. XL. The duties of the several offices will be settled by

[Constitution.]

special regulations. Each functionary is responsible within the limit of his duties.

ART. XLI. Every functionary is bound to pay respect to his superior, but obedience is only due to orders given within the limits defined by the law. In respect of acts contrary to law, the fact of having obeyed a superior will not relieve the official who has carried them out from responsibility.

The General Assembly.

ARTS. XLII to LIX.

Senate.

ARTS. LX to LXIV.

Chamber of Deputies.

ARTS. LXV to LXXX.

The Law Courts.

ART. LXXXI. The Judges nominated in conformity with the special law on this subject and furnished with the patent of investiture are irremovable, but they can resign.

The promotion of Judges, their displacement, superannuation, and revocation, in case of judicial condemnation, are subject to the provisions of the same law.

That law fixes the condition and qualities requisite for exercising the functions of Judge or the other functions of a judicial order.

ART. LXXXII. The sittings of all Tribunals are public.

The publication of judgments is authorized.

Nevertheless, in cases specified by law, the Tribunal may sit with closed doors.

ART. LXXXIII. Any person may, in the interest of his defence, make use before the Tribunal of the means permitted by the law.

ART. LXXXIV. No Tribunal can, under any pretext, refuse to judge an affair within its competency.

It cannot either arrest or adjourn judgment after having commenced the examination or instruction, unless the plaintiff desist.

Nevertheless, in penal matters the public prosecution continues to be carried on conformably to law, even in case the plaintiff has desisted.

[Constitution.]

ART. LXXXV. Every affair is judged by the Tribunal to whose province it belongs. Suits between individuals and the State are within the competency of the ordinary Tribunals.

ART. LXXXVI. No interference is to be attempted with the Tribunals.

ART. LXXXVII. Affairs touching the Cheri are tried by the Tribunals of the Cheri. The judgment of civil affairs appertains to the Civil Tribunals.

ART. LXXXVIII. The various categories of Tribunals, their competency, functions, and the emoluments of the Judges are settled by law.

ART. LXXXIX. Apart from the ordinary Tribunals, there cannot, under any title whatever, be formed Extraordinary Tribunals or Commissions to judge certain special cases.

Nevertheless, arbitration (takkin) and nomination of a "muvela" (Judge delegate) are sanctioned in the forms established by law.

ART. XC. No Judge can combine his functions with other functions paid by the State.

ART. XCI. Public Prosecutors will be appointed, charged with acting on behalf of the public. Their functions and grades will be fixed by law.

High Court of Justice.

ART. XCII. The High Court is formed of thirty members, of whom ten are Senators, ten Councillors of State, and ten chosen among the Presidents and members of the Court of Cassation and Court of Appeal.

All the members are nominated by lot.

The High Court is convoked, when necessary, by Imperial Iradé, and assembles in the Senate building.

Its functions consist in trying the Ministers, the President, and the members of the Court of Cassation, and all other persons accused of treason or attempts against the safety of the State.

ART. XCIII. The High Court is composed of two Chambers—the Chamber of Accusation and the Chamber of Judgment.

The former is formed of nine members, nominated by lot among the members of the High Court, three of them being Senators, three Councillors of State, and three members of the Court of Cassation or Court of Appeal.

ART. XCIV. The decision of sending before the Chamber of

[Constitution.]

Judgment is pronounced by the Chamber of Accusation by a majority of two-thirds of its members. The members belonging to the Chamber of Accusation cannot take part in the deliberations of the Chamber of Judgment.

ART. XCV. The Chamber of Judgment is formed of twenty-one members, 7 of whom are Senators, 7 members State Councillors, and 7 members of the Court of Cassation or Court of Appeal. It judges the cases that are sent to it by the Chamber of Accusation by a majority of two-thirds of its members, and conformably to the laws in operation.

Its decisions are not susceptible either of Appeal or of recourse to Cassation.

*Finance.**Taxes. Budget.*

ART. XCVI. Taxes to the profit of the State can only be established, assessed, or collected in virtue of a law.

ART. XCVII. The Budget is the law which contains the estimates of the receipts and expenses of the State.

Taxes to the profit of the State are governed by that law as to their assessment, their distribution, and collection.

Budget and Court of Accounts.

ART. XCVIII to CVII.

. Provincial Administration. Councils.

ART. CVIII. The administration of provinces shall be based on the principle of decentralization.

The details of this organization shall be fixed by a law.

ART. CIX. A special law will settle on wider bases the election of the administrative Councils of provinces ("vilayets"), districts ("sandjaks"), and cantons ("cazas"), as also of the Council-General, which meets annually in the chief town of each province.

ART. CX. The functions of the Provincial Council-General shall be fixed by the same special law, and shall comprise:—

The right of deliberating on matters of public utility, such as the establishment of means of communication, the organization of "caisses de crédit agricole," the development of manufactures, commerce, and agriculture, and the diffusion of education.

[Constitution.]

The right of applying to the competent authorities for the redress of acts committed in contravention of the laws and regulations as regards assessment or collection of taxes, or in any other matter.

ART. CXI. There shall be in every canton a Council appertaining to each of the different confessions. This Council will be charged with controlling—

1. The administration of the revenues of the real property of pious foundations (“vakoufs”), the special destination of which is fixed by the express provisions of the founders or by custom.

2. The employment of funds or properties assigned by testamentary provision to acts of charity or beneficence.

3. The administration of funds for orphans, in conformity with the special regulation governing the matter.

Each Council shall be composed of members elected by the community it represents, conformably to special rules to be established. These Councils will be subordinated to the local authorities and the Councils-General of provinces.

ART. CXII. Municipal business will be administered at Constantinople and in the provinces by elected Municipal Councils.

The organization of the Municipal Councils, their functions, and the mode of election of their members, will be determined by a special law.

*Various Provisions.**State of Siege.*

ART. CXIII. In the case of the perpetration of acts, or the appearance of indications of a nature to presage disturbance at any point on the territory of the Empire, the Imperial Government has the right to proclaim a state of siege there.

The state of siege consists in the temporary suspension of the civil laws.

The mode of administering localities under a state of siege will be regulated by a special law.

Expulsion of Persons Dangerous to the State.

His Majesty the Sultan has the exclusive right of expelling from the territory of the Empire those who, in consequence of trustworthy information obtained by the police, are recognized as dangerous to the safety of the State.

[Constitution.]

Primary Education.

ART. CXIV. Primary education will be obligatory on all Ottomans. The details of application will be fixed by a special law.

Execution of Constitution.

ART. CXV. No provision of the constitution can, under any pretext whatsoever, be suspended or neglected.

Modifications in Constitution on Certain Conditions.

ART. CXVI. In case of duly proved necessity, the Constitution may be modified in some of its provisions. This modification is subordinated to the following conditions :—

Every proposal of modification, whether presented by the Minister or by either of the two Chambers, must be, in the first instance, submitted to the deliberations of the Chamber of Deputies.

If the proposition is approved by two-thirds of the members of the Chamber it shall be forwarded to the Senate.

In case the Senate also adopts the proposed modification by a two-thirds majority, it shall be submitted for the sanction of His Majesty the Sultan.

If it is sanctioned by Imperial Iradé it shall have force of law.

Articles of the Constitution, which it is proposed to modify, remain in force until the modification, after having been voted by the Chambers, shall have been sanctioned by Imperial Iradé.

Intepretation of Laws.

ART. CXVII. The Court of Cassation will interpret the civil and penal laws; the Council of State administrative laws; and the Senate the articles of the Constitution.

ART. CXVIII. All the provisions of the laws, regulations, usages, and customs now in force shall continue to be applied so long as they shall not have been modified or abrogated by other laws and regulations.

Provisional Order concerning General Assembly.

ART. CXIX. The preliminary order of 10 Cheval, 1293 ($\frac{1}{2}$ ⁹th October, 1876), concerning the General Assembly, will cease to have effect from the end of the first Session.

Promulgated the 7th Zilhidjé, 1293 ($\frac{11}{23}$ rd December, 1876).

No. 477.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for the re-establishment of Peace between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro, and for the Amelioration of the General Situation in the East.* Constantinople, 23rd December, 1876—20th January, 1877.†*

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.

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Protocol.

No. 1. Opening of the Conferences. Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of *Turkey, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia*, at invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of *Turkey*. Full Powers. Presidency. Safvet Pasha, President. Secretaries to the Conference. Labours of the Conference. *Turkish* review of recent events. Insurrection in the *Herzegovina*. Attitude of *Servia* and *Montenegro*. Andrassy Note (No. 456). Insurrection in *Bulgaria*. Reforms. Conduct of *Servia* and *Montenegro*. Constitution of the *Ottoman* Empire (No. 476). Observations of Plenipotentiaries of *Great Britain, Russia, and Austria-Hungary* on *Turkish* Summary. Speech of *French* Plenipotentiary. Steps necessary to secure Peace in the East. Presentation of Report to *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries. Armistice. Necessity for Decentralization. Promulgation of the *Ottoman* Constitution (No. 476) . . . Constantinople, 23rd December, 1876 1114

No. 2. Prolongation of Armistice (till last day of February, 1877). Observations of *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries on Report presented by Conference. Observations of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries. *Servia* and *Montenegro*. *Little Zvornik*, *Servian* Boundary. Meaning of expression “speaking roughly.” *English* Proposals for Pacification :—1. *Servia*

* The Plenipotentiaries were :—

For *Great Britain*. The Marquis of Salisbury and Sir Henry Elliot.

„ *Austria-Hungary*. Count Zichy and Baron de Calice.

„ *France*. Count F. de Bourgoing and Count de Chaudordy.

„ *Germany*. Baron de Werther.

„ *Italy*. Count L. Corti.

„ *Russia*. General N. Ignatiev.

„ *Turkey*. Safvet Pasha and Edhem Pasha.

† For the full text of these Protocols see “State Papers,” vol. 68, page 1114.

Protocool.		"State Papers," vol. lxviii, page
and <i>Montenegro</i> . 2. <i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> . <i>Bulgaria</i> . Reforms. Error in Telegram, "Local Officials" for "Local Affairs." "Local Officers" in Document pre- sented to <i>Porte</i> . <i>Servia</i> . <i>Montenegro</i> . Navigation of the <i>Bojana</i> . <i>Bulgaria</i> . Secrecy of Deliberations.		
	Constantinople, 28th December, 1876	1124
No. 3. <i>Turkish</i> Counter-Project. Delay in presentation to Confer- ence. <i>Bulgaria</i> . <i>Bosnia</i> . <i>Servia</i> . Speech of <i>French</i> Ambassador :—Integrity of <i>Ottoman</i> Empire. Provincial Organizations. International Commission. Occupation of the Country by Foreign Troops. Precedents in which one Foreign Nation has been appealed to by another for Intel- lectual or Military assistance.* Appeal to the <i>Ottoman</i> Government to give a more attentive examination of the Proposals of the Powers. Speech of <i>Russian</i> Ambassador : — <i>English</i> Basis maintained. Provincial Organizations. Proposals of the Cabinets constitute for <i>Russia</i> a final and irreducible <i>minimum</i> . Appeal to the <i>Ottoman</i> Government to accept with reserve the Proposals of <i>Europe</i> . Speech of the Marquis of Salisbury, who joins in appeals of <i>French</i> and <i>Russian</i> Ambassadors. Assent of <i>Austrian</i> Ambassador to above Declarations. Adhesion of <i>German</i> and <i>Italian</i> Ambassadors. Explanation of President of delay in pre- senting <i>Turkish</i> Counter-Project. Sitting suspended for presentation of <i>Turkish</i> Counter-Project.		
	Constantinople, 30th December, 1876	1136
No. 4. <i>Turkish</i> Counter-Project. Speech of the Marquis of Salis- bury. Objections to Counter-Project. Observations of 1st <i>Turkish</i> Plenipotentiary. Observations of <i>French</i> Ambassador. Adhesion of the Ambassadors of the 6 Powers to Lord Salisbury's Observations. Speech of 2nd <i>Turkish</i> Plenipotentiary. Inability to discuss certain points. Observations of the various Plenipotentiaries. Discussion of question as to positive rejection by the <i>Porte</i> of the Propositions of the Powers.		
	Constantinople, 1st January, 1877	1143
Annex. <i>Turkish</i> Counter-Project		1148

* "France has long borrowed from Italy the services of diplomatists and statesmen ; from Switzerland excellent soldiers. Russia has done the same, and only to cite two examples respecting this, did not the Duc de Richelieu administer a province and found a town in Russia before bestowing on his country the eminent services of which France has preserved a grateful recol-lection? And did not France, almost in our time, grant Count Rossi, an Italian, Letters of Naturalization, so as to employ him as Ambassador?"

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- Protocol.
- No. 5. Explanation by 1st *Ottoman* Plenipotentiary of motives which caused the *Ottoman* Government to decline European Proposals. International Commission. Foreign Gendarmerie. Administrative Divisions. Cantonment of Regular Troops. Finances. Administration of Justice. Nomination and Powers of the Governors-General and Governors. *Circassian* Colonization. Observations of the Marquis of Salisbury and other Plenipotentiaries thereon.
Constantinople, 4th January, 1877 1152
- No. 6. Observations of the *Italian* Minister, in the name of the 6 Powers, on the *Ottoman* Counter-Project. Speech of the Marquis of Salisbury. Observations of the Marquis of Salisbury on the word "*Bulgaria*." Remarks of the other Plenipotentiaries. *Bulgaria*. Reforms. Note from Sublime Porte of 12th October, 1876.* Observations of Plenipotentiaries thereon.
Constantinople, 8th January, 1877 1163
- No. 7. Territorial Division of *Ottoman* Empire. Observations of Plenipotentiaries. Reply of 1st *Ottoman* Plenipotentiary to Speech made by *Italian* Plenipotentiary at last sitting. Observations of Plenipotentiaries thereon.
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- No. 8. Firman of 12th December, 1875 (No. 455), included in the Constitution (No. 476). Explanation of the 1st *Turkish* Plenipotentiary. Speech of the Marquis of Salisbury. Summary of Proposals adopted by Guaranteeing Powers:—*Montenegro*. Rectification of the Frontiers of *Montenegro* with the addition of the *Banyani*, *Piva* with *Niksich*, *Drobnjak*, a part of *Charanzi*, the District of *Kolachine*, the *Kutchi-Drekalovitchi*, the *Kutchi-Krini*, the *Vassoievitchi* from *Zievna* to the *Lim*, the *Maly* and *Vely Brdo*, *Spouze* and *Zabliak*. International Commission of delimitation *ad hoc*. Free Navigation of, and Neutrality of the Ports on, the *Boyana*:—*Servia*. *Status quo ante bellum* for *Servia*, with a Settlement of the Boundary difficulties on the side of *Bosnia* by a Commission of Arbitration in conformity with the Hatti-Cherif of 1833 (No. 169). Evacuation of the two Principalities by the *Ottoman* Troops and those of the Principalities of the Territories

* See Note, page 2481.

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beyond the fixed Boundaries. Exchange of Prisoners of War, and Amnesty for Subjects employed in the Enemy's Service:—*Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria*. Nomination of Governors-General. Sub-division of Provinces into Sandjaks and Cantons. Election of Provincial Assemblies and their Duties. Imposition of Taxes. Abolition of Tax-farming. Administration of Justice. Nomination of Civil and Criminal Judges and Members of Court of Appeal. Jurisdiction of Ecclesiastical Authorities for Special Causes of Different Religions. Religious Liberty. Maintenance of Clergy. Conversions. Use of Language of the Country in Tribunals and Administration. Irregular Troops. Militia and Gendarmerie composed of Christians and Mussulmans. *Circassians*. Amnesty for Christians condemned on Political Grounds. Labourers and Farmers. Acquisition of State Lands. Return of Exiles. Commissions of Control:—Intention expressed by all the Ambassadors to leave *Constantinople* should their Proposals be rejected by the *Porte*. Speeches of *Austro-Hungarian, German, Italian, British, French, and Russian* Plenipotentiaries. Observations of 1st *Turkish* Plenipotentiary. Reply of the Marquis of Salisbury as to necessity for Guarantees..... Constantinople, 15th January, 1877 1189

No. 9. Address of 1st *Ottoman* Plenipotentiary. Observations of the Ambassadors thereon:—Speech of the Marquis of Salisbury. Speech of *Russian* Ambassador. Reply of 1st *Turkish* Plenipotentiary. Remarks of the Marquis of Salisbury. Refusal of the *Porte* to give Guarantees. Observations of 1st *Turkish* Plenipotentiary. Termination of Discussion Constantinople, 20th January, 1877 1197

[On the refusal of the *Porte* to carry out the recommendations of the Conference, a Note was addressed by the Russian Government to each of the Great Powers stating that, before determining on the steps which it might be proper to take, the Emperor of Russia was desirous of knowing the limits within which the Cabinets with whom the Russian Government had till then endeavoured, and still desired so far as might be possible to proceed in common, were willing to act. A copy of this Circular Note was communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff on the 5th February, 1877. See “State Papers, Vol. 68, page 1104.]

No. 478.—*DESPATCH from Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha, explaining the Causes which led to the Close of the Conference at Constantinople without result.* 25th January, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE, by my telegram of the 20th January, informed you briefly in what manner the Conference closed.

It is now necessary for me to submit to you a faithful account of the negotiations which have just terminated in so regrettable a manner, and of the sincere and loyal efforts which the Imperial Government has not ceased to make to satisfy the wishes of Europe without wounding the feelings of the nation, and betraying our duties towards the Sovereign and the country.

When, after the second Armistice granted to Servia and to Montenegro, England took the initiative in proposing the meeting of a Conference at Constantinople (**No. 472**), you are aware, M. l'Ambassadeur, that the Sublime Porte, in giving its adherence to this proposal, was careful to require that the labours of the Conference should be on the basis of the English programme, as communicated to us by Sir Henry Elliot.

The Imperial Government, moreover, anxious to put beyond all possibility of attack the independence of its internal administration, recorded in the Treaty of Paris (**No. 264**), formally called attention again to this principle, trusting moreover on this point to the explicit assurances of Article I of the English programme itself, and to the loyalty of the Guaranteeing Powers.

It was under such circumstances that the Conference met at Constantinople with the consent of the Sublime Porte (**No. 477**). But important as it was from the very beginning so to shape the deliberations of the Conference that they might agree with the bases which had been agreed upon by common consent, and to retain for the English programme the sense in which it had been proposed and accepted, the more is it to be regretted that the Delegates of the Powers should have thought fit to hold amongst

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, 8th February, 1877.

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themselves, and before any explanation had been come to with the Sublime Porte, Preliminary Meetings with the object of settling the project to be presented to the Imperial Government (No. 475).

It is not necessary for me to dwell on the nature of this manner of proceeding, which consisted in deliberating in the absence of the party most deeply concerned, and in concert with that foreign Power whose situation and policy stamped her as more especially involved in the discussion; but I cannot refrain from attributing many of the difficulties which we have met with to the course followed on this occasion by the Representatives of the Powers.

Thus, the European Delegates appeared with a programme drawn up in concert, and which apparently it was desired to impose upon us on the strength of the understanding previously arrived at amongst themselves.

This it may be said deprived the Conference of something of its proper character, by confining the discussion, which should have taken place amongst all, to a debate between two parties only—on the one side, Turkey entirely isolated, and, on the other, Europe united with the object of insuring the acceptance of a programme determined upon beforehand.

However this may be, we were justified in hoping that the European Plenipotentiaries, even though they deliberated in our absence, would not lose sight of the original and fundamental conditions of the Conference, which, as I have said above, were none other than the English programme. Unfortunately the project of pacification and agreement adopted by the Delegates of Europe failed in a large measure to confine its object within the limits laid down by the English programme, and to conform to the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris as regards the non-intervention of the Powers in the internal affairs of the Empire (No. 264). Contrary to the basis relative to the re-establishment of the *status quo*, it claimed for Servia and Montenegro territorial concessions; and as regards the administration of a large portion of Turkey in Europe, it tended to inaugurate a system of institutions which, both in their details and in their general scope, practically annihilated the authority of the Sovereign. Moreover, this same project comprised, under the name of guarantees, a series of measures which should never have been proposed to any Government jealous of its independence, and whilst the

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English programme only spoke of moral guarantees, which were to be the natural consequence of the institutions to be conceded to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, the present project summoned Turkey to place in the hands of the foreign Powers guarantees, so to speak, both material and effective. I will not enlarge upon the nature of this first proposal made by the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers, which, if it had been accepted, would have placed in foreign hands the administration of Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and all the districts inhabited by Bulgarians, and would have formally sanctioned their separation from the rest of the Empire. It could not fail to strike us as the more unfortunate and the less called for, since it was brought forward at the moment when our august master was granting to his people a Constitution (No. 476) which would secure to all, without distinction of race or religion, those guarantees for security, equality, and justice which Europe asked only for certain provinces, and as a special privilege.

You already know, M. l'Ambassadeur, the fate of this first proposal, which placed the executive and judicial powers, and even the army, in the hands of foreign Powers. We resolutely refused to consent to any combination which might result in forfeiting the independence of the State; and through the sole force of our good rights and good reasons we secured the withdrawal, one after another, of most of the points in the programme of Europe which were incompatible with the material and moral integrity of the Empire, while at the same time we endeavoured to enlighten the Conference as to the nature and extent of our new institutions. Out of deference for Europe, we not only did not hesitate to draw up a statement, for presentation to the Conference, of the bases of the internal administration which it is our intention to establish in the provinces, in conformity with the Constitution, but we even adopted several of the measures comprised in the European programme, which seemed to us likely to answer the objects we had in view. We were, therefore, justified in indulging in the hope that our readiness to follow the counsels of Europe would be taken into consideration, and that the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers would erase from their programme the only remaining conditions which infringed principles which we had neither the right nor the wish to suffer to be called into question; but this hope was vain; and at the last sitting but one of the Conference our European colleagues notified to us that they maintained as *sine quâ non* conditions of

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the programme to be discussed the two points which were the only ones retained out of the various measures of guarantee which had originally been submitted to us, viz., the participation of the Powers in the nomination of the Valis, and the establishment of an International Commission to be entrusted with the superintendence of the execution of the regulations of the provincial administration.

Unimportant as these two points may be, if looked at by the light of the original programme of the Conference, they were not the less incompatible with respect for the sovereignty and dignity of the Imperial Government. We have not disguised from the Conference our opinion on this point, nor our conviction that the Imperial Government would reject these latter pretensions as they had all those which had arisen with the same idea of intervention in our internal affairs. Nevertheless, before giving a definite answer to the Conference, the Imperial Government thought it their duty, considering the gravity of the situation, to consult the wishes of the country.

An Assembly of the chief men of the nation, to the number of 200, was summoned, under the presidency of the Grand Vizier, who drew a true and impartial picture of the situation, without in any degree disguising the sufferings and perils to which the country might some day find itself exposed by its resistance to the final wishes of Europe. The Assembly, after examining and discussing the question, unanimously resolved to reject the two measures demanded by Europe, declaring that it was preferable to submit to the direct sacrifices, and to confront all possible dangers, rather than to consent to their country's disgrace. This decision having received the sanction of His Majesty the Sultan, the Ottoman Delegates were instructed to declare to the Conference that the Imperial Government found itself imperatively obliged to decline to accept the two points in question; and this they did at Saturday's meeting.

But at the same time they informed the European Delegates that the Imperial Government proposed to substitute for these two measures the appointment of two Commissions of Mussulmans and Christians freely elected by the people—the one for Herzegovina and Bosnia, and the other for the provinces of the Danube and Adrianople; these Commissions would be invested with powers similar to those which Europe proposed to grant to the International Commission.

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The Ottoman Delegates enumerated, moreover, the sixteen points of the project as to which the Sublime Porte agreed with the European Plenipotentiaries, at the same time expressing the opinion that the others might be satisfactorily arranged by means of a critical examination and a short discussion. The Representatives of the Sublime Porte consequently proposed to their colleagues to open this discussion forthwith. Unhappily, these statements were not so well received as we had the right to expect, for the European Delegates considered the rejection of the two points relating to the International Commission, and to the nomination of the Valis, an invincible obstacle to all agreement, and put an end to the Conference by announcing their intention to leave Constantinople. We did all we could to avert this unfortunate resolve, and we have, moreover, the consciousness of having fulfilled the most sacred of duties by resisting demands the very principle of which was to attack our autonomy, and to take from us our national independence.

I send you inclosed a copy of the last Protocol of the Conference, and I must call your attention to the speech pronounced by General Ignatiev, the text of which is included in it.

General Ignatiev, speaking in the name of his colleagues, gave utterance to quite unexpected ideas with reference to the present or future consequences of the breaking up of the Conference, as well as of the application of our Constitution. I cannot review all the points of this speech, which might provoke criticism or protest; but I cannot pass over in silence those passages of this speech which seem to accuse the Ottoman Empire of having broken the political ties which unite it to the great European family, and of the non-performance of the duties and rights which its position in it demands.

We refuse to believe that such is the opinion of Europe, or that a want of agreement between the Powers and Turkey on a disputed point can abrogate or bring into question the historical work accomplished twenty years ago. This observation applies equally to the other menaces enunciated by the Russian Delegate.

Europe cannot possibly have intended to join in this statement, and thus to deny to Turkey the exercise of her rights and the powers which belong to every independent State, and this, too, on the occasion of a disagreement which, however much to be regretted, cannot have the effect of abolishing international law.

[Close of the Constantinople Conference.]

The utterances of General Ignatiew have this peculiar character, that, being made at the moment of the close of the Conference, they put the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries in the most delicate position possible. Nothing could have been easier for them—if they had not thought it necessary carefully to avoid the ground which the General had taken up—than to have addressed themselves one by one to the different points on which he had touched, and to have forthwith corrected the errors of his assertions, both as regards their form and substance. But the subjects to which he alluded had so little in common with the object of the deliberations of the Conference, and were so completely outside the programme of its labours, that the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries thought it better after all to push personal delicacy towards the Russian Representative to its furthest limits, and they therefore kept silence. The Representatives of the other Powers also followed their example, and in this we may see an unequivocal sign of the astonishment with which they heard the words in which General Ignatiew assumed to represent the opinion of his colleagues.

The Sublime Porte is nowise blind to the dangers of the situation and to the fresh dangers in which the unhappy result of the Conference may involve her. But she is persuaded that Europe will not aggravate these consequences by making her responsible for this want of success, which is exclusively due to the maintenance of two measures, the efficacy and practical utility of which are at least questionable, and which would undoubtedly have been paralysed by the feelings of general disapproval with which they would have been received, if the Imperial Government, regardless of all national dignity, had allowed itself to be drawn into their acceptance. It seems to us impossible that we can have thereby forfeited the good-will and the sympathy of Europe.

You will be good enough, M. l'Ambassador, to read this despatch to his Excellency the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and to leave him a copy of it.

I have, &c.,

SAFVET.

No. 479.—*CONVENTION between Turkey and Montenegro, for the Transport of Provisions to Nichsich and Riéka. Signed at Cettigné, ^{26th January}/_{7th February}, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

HIS Highness the Prince of Montenegro consenting to the entrance into the town of Nichsich of the provisions necessary for the civil population, and charging himself with their transport, the Sublime Porte, on its side, consenting to the passage, by way of the Lake of Scutari, of the provisions destined for the population of Montenegro, and charging itself with effecting their transport.

The following has been agreed :—

Between the Voivode Pierre Vukotich, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of His Highness the Prince of Montenegro, authorized by His Highness, and represented by M. Nicolas Mantanovich, Aide-de-Camp of the Prince, on one part; and His Excellency Marshal Suleiman Pasha, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in Bosnia and Herzegovina, authorized by the Sublime Porte, and represented by Azarian Effendi, Secretary of the Commander-in-Chief in Herzegovina, on the other part :—

ART. I. The Montenegrin authorities charging themselves with the transport at their expense from Risano to Nichsich of the quantity of 153,000 okes of provisions, destined for the civil population of Nichsich, which the Agents of the Sublime Porte shall deliver to the Montenegrin Agents on the quay at Risano.

ART. II. The Ottoman authorities charging themselves with the transport at their expense by water from Cattaro to Riéka (Montenegro) of the quantity of 1,200,000 okes of provisions, destined for the population of the Principality, which the Agents of the Prince shall deliver to those of the Sublime Porte on board the boats destined for the transport.

ART. III. The two Contracting Parties engage to effect the abovementioned transports up to ^{26th February}/_{10th March}, inclusive. If, at the expiration of the present Armistice, on ^{17th February}/_{1st March}, hostilities should recommence, the two Parties engage to complete the

[Nichsich and Riéka.]

abovementioned transports, and to ensure the free passage of the convoys, as well as the safety of the agents employed on either side.

ART. IV. The hospitals of Nichsich being destitute of certain articles of medicine, the Montenegrin authorities charge themselves with the transport, also at their expense, to Nichsich of a quantity equivalent to the loads of 5 horses, which shall be delivered to them on the quay at Risano.

ART. V. Each of the Contracting Parties reserves to itself the right of causing each of the convoys destined for it to be accompanied by an agent, and of testing on arrival the weight of the quantities delivered.

Done at Cettigné, in duplicate, ^{26th January}_{7th February}, 1877.

N. MATANOVICH, m.p.

AZARIAN, m.p.

No. 480.—*PROTOCOL between the Servian and Turkish Plenipotentiaries, for the restoration of Peace. Constantinople, $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁶₈th February, 1877.*

TABLE.

Confirmation of Imperial Hatts.

Amnesty.

Evacuation of Territories.

ANNEX. Ottoman Flag to fly with Servian Flag on the Citadel of Belgrade.
Fortifications not to be increased.
Armed Bands. Secret Societies.
Religious Liberty. Armenians, Gregorians, Catholics, and Israelites.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

TO-DAY, the $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁶₈th February, 1877, the Delegates of His Highness the Prince of Servia, MM. Ph. Christitch and D. Matitch assembled in session with his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, declared that they considered that their labours were concluded, and that an agreement had been arrived at with his Excellency the Minister, in conformity with the explanatory note presented by them to the Sublime Porte under date of $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁶₈th February.*

The Delegates consequently declared that, under the full powers conferred on them by the Government of the Prince, they confirm its desires of seeing relations restored with the Sovereign Court on the footing of the *status quo ante*.

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs declared on his side, in the name of the Sublime Porte, that he had considered the said supervised explanatory note, that the Imperial Government had determined to re-establish its relations with the Principality of Servia on the footing of the *status quo ante*, and that this decision will be communicated to the Prince in the forms hitherto in use.

Under these circumstances, and with the purpose of fixing as explicitly as is necessary the extent of the principle of *status quo ante*, and to avoid all misunderstanding which might arise on this head, it is affirmed that under this agreement it is understood:—

* See page 2554.

[Peace between Turkey and Servia.]

Confirmation of Imperial Hatts.

1. That the re-establishment of the *status quo ante* signifies, with the necessity of other and longer explanations, the complete and unexceptional re-establishment of all the clauses and stipulations inscribed in the Imperial Hatts, and in the other State Acts concerning Servia,* and especially the Hatt of 11th April, 1867 (5 Zilhidge, 1283) (No. 404), respecting the regulations of the Fortresses.

Amnesty.

2. That the Sublime Porte having already granted a full and complete amnesty to the Ottoman subjects compromised in the late events,† the Government of the Prince likewise grants pardon and amnesty to the Servians compromised in the same unhappy events.

Evacuation of Territories.

3. That in the interval of twelve days from this date, the Imperial troops and those of Servia shall evacuate the territory occupied by them outside the ancient frontier demarcation, so that, this interval having elapsed, the officials of each party may resume their former lawful functions.

This paper is signed in duplicate.

SAFVET.

PH. CRISTICH.
D. MATITCH.

NOTE REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE PROTOCOL.

The Servian Delegates to the Grand Vizier, Constantinople,
1⁶/₈th February, 1877.

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, Special Delegates of His Highness the Prince of Servia, have already had the honour to make them-

* See Index, Vol. III.

† See note, page 2447.

[Peace between Turkey and Servia.]

selves the interpreters to the Sublime Porte of the sincere desire of the Prince of Servia and his Government to see the relations of the Principality with the Suzerain Court re-established at the earliest possible moment as they were before the late unhappy events.

The Sublime Porte, on its side, having brought to the knowledge of His Highness the Prince the proposals, the adoption of which it had judged necessary for the re-establishment of the *statu quo ante*, the Undersigned, in accordance with instructions, hasten to offer to the Imperial Government the following explanations, which permit of their establishing the fact and declaring that henceforth nothing obstructs the re-establishment of the *statu quo*.

The Sublime Porte desires that :—

*Ottoman Flag to fly with Servian Flag on the Citadel of Belgrade.
Fortifications not to be increased.*

“In accordance with the stipulations which were made at the time of the withdrawal of the Ottoman troops from the Citadel of Belgrade, the Ottoman flag shall fly henceforth on the said Citadel side by side with the Servian flag; and further, that, in execution of the ancient Firmans, the number of the fortresses and the importance of the existing fortifications shall not be increased in future.”

The Government of the Principality has never ceased to carry out the obligation of hoisting the Ottoman flag on the Citadel of Belgrade. Besides, these two points are expressly and explicitly established in the Hatti-Chérifs of Rebjib, 1249 (No. 169), and of the ^{11th April, 1867}_{5th Zilhidjî, 1283} (No. 404); it follows that, directly the Principality is allowed to establish relations with the Suzerain Court on the footing of the *statu quo ante*, the recognition which is conveyed by the re-establishment of the *statu quo ante* of all the Imperial Firmans delivered at different dates, will render binding as regards the fortresses the stipulations contained in the above-mentioned Firmans, and from that moment these stipulations will be immediately put into practice and be scrupulously observed.

The Sublime Porte desires likewise that :—

Armed Bands.—Secret Societies.

“The Government of the Principality should prevent the formation of Armed Bands on the territory of the Principality, destined to bring trouble on the neighbouring provinces, as well as the entry into the adjacent provinces of armed bands thus formed, either openly in bodies, or secretly in knots; that, moreover, the Prince’s Government should oppose the formation of societies, whether secret or not, having for their object the troubling of the peace and tranquillity of the neighbouring provinces.”

The Undersigned have invoked antecedents the least disputable by right and fact to furnish the Government of the Sublime Porte with the most formal assurances as regards the eminently conservative and anti-revolutionary tendencies which have ever characterized the people and the Government of the Principality. Servia, conscious of her position, seeks in productive labour the elements of her prosperity; opposed to all disturbances which might be injurious to her development, moral, intellectual, and commercial, she has imposed on herself strict laws to prevent the creation of Secret Societies with subversive aims, and to suppress the formation of armed bands destined to foment discord in the neighbouring provinces. As a matter of fact, during the long period which has elapsed since the creation of the Principality under the Sultan Mahmoud up to these latter days, not only has the formation of armed bands been unknown in Servia, but secret societies even have not existed, so true is it that the internal legislation, in accordance as it is with the proclivities of the Servian population, has always sufficed to prevent the creation of such elements of disturbance.

The Secret Societies to which the Sublime Porte has alluded have had their origin and seat elsewhere than in Servia. If, recently, these laws of the Principality have not been in full force, and a position has been produced hurtful to the interests of all, the assurances which the Undersigned have the privilege of conveying to the Imperial Government are the best adapted to put an end to them by re-establishing peace and relations of good understanding between the Suzerain Court and the Principality, and to restore to these laws, which are the guardians

[Peace between Turkey and Servia.]

of public order, their old and incontestable authority and efficacy to the greatest advantage of Servia herself.

The Porte desires that :—

Religious Liberty. Armenians, Gregorians, Catholics, and Israelites.

“Independently of the religious liberty, the Armenians, Gregorians and Catholics, and Israelites shall enjoy in Servia the same rights and the same privileges as the other inhabitants.”

To the desire for religious toleration thus generously manifested by the Sublime Porte, the Undersigned have made answer that the internal legislation of Servia does not recognize any exception on the grounds of religion; that Armenians, Gregorians, or Catholics have never existed in Servia; that all Servian citizens enjoy equal civil and political rights; that Israelites, who are Servian subjects, are no more deprived of these rights (with the exception of one restriction only with respect to their establishment in the interior of the country) than would be in future Servian citizens who might belong to a Christian sect other than the Orthodox one.

The Undersigned are happy to have had it in their power thus to show that the great principle of religious liberty inherent in the internal system of the Principality has been always shared by all Servian citizens without distinction of the form of worship.

They are glad to have thus established by the above consideration the perfect understanding which exists between the Sublime Porte and the Government of the Principality as regards all that has reference to the conditions of the re-establishment of the *statu quo* which had been previously notified to Belgrade.

The Undersigned, in their capacity, already announced, of Delegates of the Principality, and charged to renew in the most formal manner the expression of loyal fidelity of the Prince and people of Servia to the august person of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, do not hesitate to declare to the Government of the Sublime Porte that His Highness Prince Milan is prepared to confirm directly the explanations and the assurances of which they have been in his name the faithful interpreters.

28 Feb., 1877.]

TURKEY AND SERVIA.

[No. 480

[Peace between Turkey and Servia.]

They hope that consequently His Highness the Grand Vizier will have the goodness to **procure** the issue of the Imperial Iradé for the re-establishment of the *statu quo ante*, and also the withdrawal of the Imperial troops within 12 days dating from to-day, behind the line of demarcation, and that this line may be re-established such as it was before the recent events.

PH. CHRISTITCH.

D. MATITCH.

Constantinople, $\frac{16}{8}$ th February, 1877.

[On the 13th December, 1877, the Prince of Servia issued a Manifesto, in which he proclaimed a renewal of the War with Turkey (No. 508)].

No. 481.—*FIRMAN of the Sultan, on the re-establishment of Peace with Servia.* ^{20th February}_{4th March}, 1877.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(AFTER the usual compliments.)

Our Imperial solicitude has always had for its object everything which could contribute to insure the tranquillity and the progress of the Principality of Servia, which forms an integral part of our Empire, and the happiness and welfare of its inhabitants. The immunities and privileges contained in the Imperial Hatts, issued at different times, have had for their sole object the realization of this desire.* A striking proof of our especial goodwill for the Servian people, in consideration of its proved fidelity towards our Imperial Government has been afforded by the decision by virtue of which the garrisoning of the Imperial fortresses situated in Servia has been entrusted to the Principality. The confidence and sincerity existing between the Principality and the Suzerain Court were thus consolidated and developed from day to day, when, in spite of the efforts of our Imperial Government to guarantee the existing state of things, we have seen with sorrow that it was not possible to prevent the unfortunate events which have threatened to seriously disturb the internal condition of Servia, as well as its relations towards the Suzerain Court.

Upon the immediate acceptance of the proposal for the re-establishment of tranquillity, which had been made by our Imperial Government in order to spare Servia the calamities of war, and which had in view the return of Servia to the situation existing before the recent unhappy events, your delegates, the very honourable MM. Christitch and Matitch, arrived at Constantinople with full powers from you. In the discussions which took place between them and our Sublime Porte they have been able to give verbally and in writing, explanations and assurances by which they have guaranteed that the Firmans issued from time to time will be scrupulously observed, that the obligations which have been borne by Servia in return for the privileges and immunities of the Principality will be carried out, and that nothing

* See Vol. III. Index-Heading SERVIA.

[Peace with Servia.]

would henceforth be permitted which might disturb materially or morally the good relations of Servia with our Government (No. 480).

These explanations and assurances having renewed and confirmed our Imperial confidence in the fidelity and probity of the Principality and of the Servian people, we have approved and ratified the re-establishment of the *status quo ante*; and also our Imperial pardon has been granted to those inhabitants of the neighbouring provinces who, during the events referred to, have fled and taken refuge in the Principality, and the return to their homes of the inhabitants of the Principality who have taken refuge with us has been equally assured. We are convinced that you and the Servian people will appreciate what has just been decreed, as a manifest proof of our confidence and Imperial goodwill towards you, and that you will persist in the accomplishment of the duties of the Principality towards our Imperial Government, and consequently we have issued and delivered our present Firman confirmed by our Imperial sanction to proclaim that upon this basis the *status quo ante* has been re-established, and that the necessary orders have been given for the evacuation of the places beyond the line of demarcation which are held by our army.

Given the 18th Safer, 1294, ^{20th February}/_{4th March}, 1877.

[On the 13th December, 1877, the Prince of Servia issued a Manifesto, in which he proclaimed a renewal of the War with Turkey (No. 508)].

No. 482.—*PROCLAMATION of the Prince of Servia, on the conclusion of Peace with the Porte. Belgrade, ^{21st}_{February}
_{March}, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

To my beloved nation. You were informed by my Proclamation of the $\frac{1}{30}$ th of June of last year (**No. 463**) of the reason that compelled us, in conjunction with Montenegro, to take up arms.

The fate of the Christians being now in other hands, I am happy at being able to state to you that, after consulting the Great National Assembly, Peace has been concluded with the Porte. An instrument by which this has been effected has been signed on the $\frac{1}{28}$ th February (**No. 480**) by my Delegates and the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs, and subsequently by telegraph sanctioned and ratified by me.

Under the guarantee of the Great Powers, Servia will resume the same good relations with the Porte that existed before the war. At the end of this month both Turkish and Servian troops will retire across the frontier on to their respective territories. Full amnesty will be accorded to all refugees during the war, and arrangements will be made for their relief.

Brethren, from this day the state of siege ceases in Servia, and certain laws promulgated during the war are now abrogated, while others will remain in force for the present. On resuming occupations of a more peaceful nature, let us not forget those brave men who have left their bones on the field of battle. Their names will ever be held in remembrance by a grateful posterity. Let us also not forsake our wounded who have become unfit for work, and whom it is our bounden duty to support.

It behoves us also not to neglect those of our countrymen who, from their proximity to the seat of war, have been the greater sufferers. It will be the first duty of my Government to supply them with their present wants and to better their condition.

Having on the field of battle fulfilled the duties we owed to our country and to the nation, let us now, by turning our attention to peaceful occupations and brotherly love, endeavour to gather renewed strength wherewith to ensure our national pro-

5 March, 1877.]

SERVIA.

[No. 482

[Peace with Turkey.]

gress. Let us remain ever grateful to our Russian brethren for the assistance they gave us in the time of need, and also to others who, during our difficulties, sympathised with us, and more especially let us express our gratitude to all those benevolent societies and persons who have been ever ready to stretch out a helping hand to the wounded and to assist those who suffered by the war.

I, as your Ruler, have yet an agreeable task to fulfil, viz., of thanking you for all the sacrifices you were called upon to make during the war. Some of you on the field of battle, others in the execution of various duties, but all, without exception, showing the greatest patriotism.

MILAN M. OBRENOVITCH IV,

Prince of Servia.

Belgrade, $\frac{21\text{st February}}{5\text{th March}}$, 1877.

[On the 13th December, 1877, the Prince of Servia issued a Manifesto, in which he proclaimed a renewal of the War with Turkey (No. 508).]

No. 483.—*PROTOCOL between Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, relative to the condition of the Christian Populations of Turkey; the Introduction of Reforms in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria; the Affairs of Servia, Montenegro, the Principalities, &c. London, 31st March, 1877.*

TABLE.

Christian Populations of Turkey. Reforms in *Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria.*

Servia.

Montenegro. Navigation of the *Boyana.*

Principalities (*Moldavia and Wallachia*).

Reduction of Armaments.

Reforms.

Christian Populations of *Turkey.*

Execution of *Ottoman* Promises.

Reservation in case of condition of Christian Population not being improved.
(*European Concert*).

Russian Declaration. Peace with *Montenegro.* Disarmament. Massacres.

Italian Declaration. *European Concert.*

British Declaration. *Russian and Turkish* Disarmament and continuance of
Peace.

Russian Declaration. Peace with *Montenegro.* Disarmament. Massacres.

Italian Declaration. *European Concert.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Christian Populations of Turkey. Reforms in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria.

THE Powers who have undertaken in common the pacification of the East, and have with that view taken part in the Conference of Constantinople (**No. 477**), recognize that the surest means of attaining the object which they have proposed to themselves, is before all to maintain the agreement so happily established between them, and jointly to affirm afresh the common interest which they take in the improvement of the condition of the Christian populations of Turkey, and in the reforms to be introduced in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, which the Porte has accepted on condition of itself carrying them into execution.

Servia.

They take cognizance of the conclusion of peace with Servia, 28th February, 1877 (**No. 480**).

[London Protocol.]

Montenegro. Navigation of the Boïana.

As regards Montenegro, the Powers consider the rectification of the frontiers and the free navigation of the Boïana to be desirable in the interest of a solid and durable arrangement.

Principalities (Moldavia and Wallachia).

The Powers consider the arrangements concluded, or to be concluded, between the Porte and the two Principalities, as a step accomplished towards the pacification, which is the object of their common wishes.

Reduction of Armaments.

They invite the Porte to consolidate it by placing its armies on a peace footing, excepting the number of troops indispensable for the maintenance of order, and by putting in hand with the least possible delay the reforms necessary for the tranquillity and well-being of the Provinces, the condition of which was discussed at the Conference. They recognize that the Porte has declared itself ready to realize an important portion of them.

Reforms.

They take cognizance specially of the Circular of the Porte of the 13th of February, 1876 (No. 458), and of the declarations made by the Ottoman Government during the Conference and since, through its Representatives.

Christian Populations of Turkey.

In view of these good intentions on the part of the Porte, and of its evident interest to carry them immediately into effect, the Powers believe that they have grounds for hoping that the Porte will profit by the present lull to apply energetically such measures as will cause that effective improvement in the condition of the Christian populations which is unanimously called for as indispensable to the tranquillity of Europe, and that having once entered on this path, it will understand that it concerns its honour as well as its interests to persevere in it loyally and efficaciously.

Execution of Ottoman Promises.

The Powers propose to watch carefully by means of their

[London Protocol.]

Representatives at Constantinople and their local Agents, the manner in which the promises of the Ottoman Government are carried into effect.

*Reservation in case of condition of Christian Population not
being improved. European Concert.*

If their hopes should once more be disappointed, and if the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan should not be improved in a manner to prevent the return of the complications which periodically disturb the peace of the East, they think it right to declare that such a state of affairs would be incompatible with their interests and those of Europe in general. In such case they reserve to themselves to consider in common as to the means which they may deem best fitted to secure the well-being of the Christian populations, and the interests of the general peace.

Done at London, 31st March, 1877.

MÜNSTER.

BEUST.

L. D'HARCOURT.

DERBY.

L. F. MENABREA.

SCHOUVALOFF.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Foreign Office, 31st March, 1877.

COUNT MÜNSTER, Ambassador of Germany, Count Beust, Ambassador of Austria-Hungary, the Marquis d'Harcourt, Ambassador of France, the Earl of Derby, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, General Count de Menabrea, Ambassador of Italy, and Count Schouvaloff, Ambassador of Russia, met together this day at the Foreign Office, for the purpose of signing the Protocol proposed by Russia, relative to the affairs of the East.

*Russian Declaration. Peace with Montenegro. Disarmament.
Massacres.*

Count Schouvaloff made the following declaration, placing, at

[London Protocol.]

the same time, a *pro memoriâ* of it in the hands of Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State:—

“If peace with Montenegro is concluded, and the Porte accepts the advice of Europe and shows itself ready to replace its forces on a peace footing, and seriously to undertake the reforms mentioned in the Protocol, let it send to St. Petersburg a Special Envoy to treat of disarmament, to which His Majesty the Emperor would also on his part consent.

“If massacres similar to those which have stained Bulgaria with blood take place, this would necessarily put a stop to the measures of demobilization.”

The Earl of Derby read and delivered to each of the other Plenipotentiaries a declaration, copy of which is annexed to the present *procès-verbal*.

Italian Declaration. European Concert.

General Count de Menabrea declared that Italy is only bound by the signature of the Protocol of this day's date, so long as the agreement happily established between all the Powers by the Protocol itself is maintained.

The signature of the Protocol was then proceeded with.

MÜNSTER.

BEUST.

L. D'HARCOURT.

DERBY.

L. F. MENABREA.

SCHOUVALOFF.

Annex to the Minutes of Meeting of 31st March, 1877.

British Declaration. Russian and Turkish Disarmaments and continuance of Peace.

Declaration made by the Earl of Derby before the signature of the Protocol.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, makes the following declaration in regard to the Protocol signed this day by the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, and Russia:—

[London Protocol.]

Inasmuch as it is solely in the interests of European peace that Her Britannic Majesty's Government have consented to sign the Protocol proposed by that of Russia, it is understood beforehand that, in the event of the object proposed not being attained—namely, reciprocal disarmament on the part of Russia and Turkey, and peace between them—the Protocol in question shall be regarded as null and void.

DERBY.

London, 31st March, 1877.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Russian Declaration.

*Declaration made by the Russian Ambassador (Count Schouvaloff)
before the signature of the Protocol.*

Peace with Montenegro. Disarmament. Massacres.

IF peace with Montenegro is concluded and the Porte accepts the advice of Europe, and shows itself ready to replace its forces on a peace footing, and seriously to undertake the reforms mentioned in the Protocol, let it send to St. Petersburg a Special Envoy to treat of disarmament, to which His Majesty the Emperor would also on his part consent.

If massacres similar to those which have occurred in Bulgaria take place, this would necessarily put a stop to the measures of demobilization.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Italian Declaration.

*Declaration made by the Italian Ambassador (Count Menabrea)
before the signature of the Protocol.*

European Concert.

ITALY is only bound by the signature of the Protocol of this day's date so long as the agreement happily established between all the Powers by the Protocol itself is maintained.

No. 484.—*DESPATCH from Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha, protesting against the Protocol of London of the 31st March, 1877, relating to the Affairs of Turkey.* Constantinople, 9th April, 1877.*

TABLE.

Montenegro.

Reforms.

Armaments.

Possible further Disorders.

Disarmaments.

Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria.

Christian Population.

Guarantee for Execution of Reforms. Welfare of Christians, &c.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(Telegraphic.)

THE Protocol signed at London on the 31st of March, 1877 (No. 483), has been communicated to the Sublime Porte by the Principal Secretary of State of Her Britannic Majesty, and by the German, Austro-Hungarian, French, Italian, and Russian Ambassadors, as also the declarations of the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Her Britannic Majesty, and of the Italian and Russian Ambassadors which are annexed to it.

Whilst taking note of these documents, the Sublime Porte has experienced deep regret at perceiving that the Great Friendly Powers did not consider it their duty to admit the Imperial Government to participate in deliberations in which, nevertheless, questions affecting the most vital interests of the Empire were treated. The complete deference which the Imperial Government has, under all circumstances, evinced for the advice and wishes of the Great Powers, the close connection which so happily unites the interests of the Empire to those of the rest of Europe, the most incontestable principles of equity, and, lastly, solemn engagements, authorized the Sublime Porte to believe that it, too, would be called to take part in the work destined to restore peace to the East and to establish the agreement on this subject amongst the Great Powers on a just and legitimate basis.

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, 12th April, 1877.

[Protest against London Protocol.]

But, from the moment that this has not been the case, the Sublime Porte sees itself imperiously obliged to assert itself against the authority of such a precedent, and to call attention to the fatal consequences which might also result in the future to the guiding principles of the security of international relations.

Passing to the examination of these documents, the Sublime Porte has come to the conclusion that if the Signatory Powers had taken better account of the exchange of views which took place at the time of the Constantinople Conferences, of the results obtained in the interval which has elapsed since then, and of the nature of the new dangers which threaten peace, it would perhaps have been easy to have arrived, by a just consideration of the great interests in question, at a definitive agreement, which would not have been dependent either on serious infractions of law or on conditions which were impossible of realization.

During the Constantinople Conferences (No. 477) the Sublime Porte, relying on the Constitution (No. 476) which His Imperial Majesty had just spontaneously granted, and which realized the most comprehensive reform which had been seen in this Empire since its establishment, had taken care to point out the injustice of any measure which, under the appearance of reform, might be developed by the division of provinces, creeds, or classes; as well as the impossibility of accepting anything contrary to the integrity or independence of the Empire. This double point of view answers fully to the conditions of the English programme which was accepted by the Powers. This programme laid down in principle the maintenance of the integrity and independence of the Empire, and demanded for certain provinces a system of institutions which should afford guarantees against bad administration and acts of arbitrary authority. Thus, the system of institutions demanded was naturally realised in law, as well as in fact, by the very nature of the new political organization given to the Empire, without distinction of language, creeds, or provinces. Since then the Ottoman Parliament has been convoked,* and an Assembly, founded on a system of free election, which will shortly be arranged in a manner which will give no ground for any well-founded criticism, is actually in session at Constantinople, and

* The Ottoman Parliament was opened by a Speech from the Sultan, on the 19th March, 1877.

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discusses with perfect freedom the most important State affairs. If the objection be made that this system of reforms is too new to bear fruit immediately, it may be remarked in reply that that is an objection which could just as well have been made to the reforms recommended by the foreign Plenipotentiaries, and in general against every reform which, from the very fact that it is an innovation, cannot possess at its birth the efficacy that time alone can impart.

Again, internal security was solidly re-established. Tranquillity was restored to Servia, and negotiations, in which the Sublime Porte continues to give proof of the greatest moderation, have been commenced with Montenegro.

Unfortunately a new incident arose in the interval, and the extraordinary armaments which have been going on for some months through the length and breadth of Russia, while compelling the Sublime Porte to provide for measures of defence, have not only prevented a complete tranquillization of feeling being arrived at, but have, in the end, brought about a situation fraught with danger. The Sublime Porte will do itself the justice of declaring that it has neglected nothing which was calculated to dissipate doubts, to calm disquietudes, and to soothe the most delicate susceptibilities.

Seeing that the Porte was hardly freed from the long and difficult trials which the revolutionary plots had sought to let loose on all the provinces of the Empire, it was natural that it should only long for repose, and should have no other desire than to devote itself at the first moment possible to the faithful work of internal regeneration. It could only, from that time, the more keenly deplore the sight of the further removal every day of this constant object of its wishes, in proportion as the restraint which it was sought to impose on it, left it no other alternative than to demand weighty sacrifices from its people, to exhaust its finances by large and unproductive expenditure, and above all to devote its attention to the way in which it could succeed in averting a conflict which was calculated to disturb deeply the peace of the world.

It is natural that the Great Powers interested themselves in this situation. The Sublime Porte, for reasons which it is unnecessary to explain, had up to the present time avoided drawing officially the attention of the Powers to this new phase of the question, assuredly the gravest of all. But the declarations

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which their Excellencies Lord Derby and Count Schouvaloff prefixed to the signature of the Protocol (No. 483) give it also, at the present moment, an opportunity of conveying to the friendly Cabinets the urgent need there is to put an end to a complication so dangerous, and of which it is not in the power of the Sublime Porte much longer to delay the result.

Consequently, and in reply to the declaration of his Excellency the Ambassador of Russia, the Sublime Porte, on its side, notifies the following declaration to the Powers who signed the Protocol:—

Montenegro.

1. The Sublime Porte, following as regards Montenegro the same course which had brought about peace with Servia, spontaneously informed the Prince, two months ago, that no effort, even at the price of certain sacrifices, would be spared to come to an understanding with him; viewing Montenegro as an integral portion of Ottoman territory, the Porte proposed a rectification of the line of boundary, which would ensure certain advantages to Montenegro, and henceforth it depends entirely on the counsels of moderation, which the Sublime Porte trusts will prevail at Cettigné, whether this affair may be considered as terminated.

Reforms.

2. The Imperial Government is ready to carry out immediately all the promised reforms, but these reforms, in conformity with the fundamental dispositions of our Constitution, must not bear a special and exclusive character; and in this spirit the Imperial Government will, while reserving its full and complete liberty of action, persevere in establishing these institutions.

Armaments.

3. The Imperial Government is prepared to replace its armies upon a peace footing as soon as it sees that the Russian Government is taking measures with a similar object; the Turkish armaments are essentially of a defensive character, and the bonds of friendship and esteem which unite the two Empires give reason to hope that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg will not isolate itself in Europe by clinging to the belief that the Christian populations of Turkey are exposed to such dangers from their own Government that it is necessary to prepare against a

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friendly neighbour and State every possible means of invasion and destruction.

Possible further Disorders.

4. As regards the disorders which might break out in Turkey and arrest the demobilization of the Russian Army, the Imperial Government, which rejects the offensive terms in which this idea has been expressed, believes that Europe is convinced that the disorders which have disturbed the tranquillity of the provinces were due to external agitation; that the Imperial Government cannot be held responsible for them; and that, consequently, the Russian Government would not be justified in making the demobilization of its armies depend on such contingencies.

Disarmaments.

5. As to the despatch of a Special Envoy to St. Petersburg charged with treating of the disarmament, the Imperial Government, which would have no reason to refuse an act of courtesy which is imposed by diplomatic etiquette on condition of reciprocity, sees no connection between this act of international courtesy and the disarmament, for delaying which there is no plausible motive, and which could be carried into effect by a simple telegraphic order.

In placing the preceding declarations before the Cabinets of the Signatory Powers, the Sublime Porte asks them to take note of them, to appreciate the spirit which has dictated them, and to be so good as to give them the importance to which they are entitled in the present situation—a situation to the dangers of which the Imperial Government cannot too plainly call attention, and for which it formally repudiates the responsibility.

In connection with what has just been set forth above respecting the efforts which the Imperial Government has devoted to the restoration of tranquillity, as well as respecting the causes which have really baffled them, the Cabinets who have signed the Protocol of the 31st of March (No. 483) can easily comprehend the painful feeling which this document could not fail to produce on the Imperial Government.

It would be useless to recall here the passages of the Protocol relating to the two Principalities and to the question of the disarmament.

But what cannot in truth be sufficiently regretted is the small account which the Powers seem to have taken, both of the

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great principles of equality and justice which the Imperial Government seeks to introduce into the internal administration, and of its rights of independence and sovereignty.

[*Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria. Christian Populations.*

There is, in fact, cause for surprise that in this Protocol the friendly Powers have thought fit to affirm afresh "the common interest which they take in the reforms to be introduced into Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, which the Porte has accepted, reserving to herself their application;" to invite the Porte to carry into "operation with the shortest possible delay the reforms in the condition of the provinces with which the Conference was concerned;" to express the hope that the Porte will energetically take the measures destined to produce in the condition of the Christian population the effectual improvement which is unanimously demanded, and that once entered on this path it will understand that its honour, as well as its interest, is at stake, in persevering loyally and effectually therein.

The Sublime Porte has not accepted reforms exclusively for Bosnia, Herzegovina, and for localities inhabited by Bulgarians.

It is not a matter of doubt that it is very much to its interest and part of its duty to satisfy the legitimate rights of its Christian subjects; it cannot admit that the improvements which are recommended to its notice should be devoted exclusively to the Christian element. On the morrow of the receipt of the proofs of loyalty and devotion which all His Majesty's subjects have shown, and in presence of reforms which tend to unite all the populations of the Empire into one single body politic, the Sublime Porte owes it to itself to repel the suspicion which the expressions of the Protocol would wish to throw on the sincerity of its sentiments towards its Christian subjects, and to protest, moreover, against the indifference, to say the least, which these same expressions bear witness to, with reference to its Mussulman subjects and others. It is not to be supposed that improvements which tend to insure also to the Mussulmans tranquillity and well-being are devoid of importance in the eyes of Europe, enlightened, tolerant, and just as she is. Measures, or rather institutions, calculated to secure to all, equally, the liberal development, both moral and material, of the rights of each individual, such is the object which Turkey is now aiming at; she

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will make it a point of honour to persevere in this course; and for this the Constitution is the best and surest guarantee.

But if the Imperial Government sees itself compelled to reject every idea by which attempts might be made to sow germs of antagonism between the different elements of its population, and to inspire certain persons amongst them with mistrust of their legitimate authorities, neither would it see its way on any account to subscribe to the sanction which the Protocol has in view to give to the application of the improvements above set forth.

Guarantee for Execution of Reforms. Welfare of Christians, &c.

Thus when the Protocol declares that "the Powers propose to watch with care, and through the medium of their Representative at Constantinople and of their local Agents, over the way in which the promises of the Ottoman Government shall be executed," and when it adds that "if this hope should once more prove unfounded they reserve to themselves to consider in common as to the means which they may think best calculated to ensure the welfare of the Christians and the general interests of peace," it is evident that it must provoke the legitimate protestations of the Imperial Government, and to encounter its most formal opposition. Turkey, as an independent State, cannot submit to be placed under any surveillance, whether collective or not.

Although she maintains with other friendly Powers relations which are governed by international law and by Treaty, she cannot agree to recognize the foreign Agents or Representatives, whose duty it is to protect the interests of their respective countries, as holding any mission of official surveillance. The Imperial Government cannot either see in what manner they have so far deviated from the path of justice and civilization as to see themselves placed in a position both humiliating and without example in the world.

The Treaty (No.264) of Paris explicitly declared the principle of non-intervention. That Treaty, which binds the other High Contracting Bodies as well as Turkey, cannot be abolished by a Protocol in which Turkey has taken no part.

And if Turkey appeals to the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris, it is not because that Treaty created in her favour any rights which she did not possess without that Treaty, but only to recall attention to the grave reasons which twenty years ago led

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the Powers, in the interest of the general peace of Europe, to place under the guarantee of a joint promise the recognition of the inviolable right of sovereignty of that Empire.

As for the clause which, in case of the non-execution of the promised reforms, would give to the Powers the right of concerting ulterior measures, the Imperial Government regards it in the light of a further attack on its dignity and on its rights, a proceeding of intimidation calculated to deprive their action of all merit of spontaneity, and a source of grave complication for the present as well as for the future.

No consideration can arrest the Imperial Government in their determination to protest against the Protocol of the 31st of March (**No. 483**), and to consider it, as regards Turkey, as devoid of all equity, and consequently of all binding character.

In face of hostile suggestions, unmerited suspicions, and manifest violations of her rights—violations which are at the same time violations of international law—Turkey feels that she struggles at the present moment for her very existence.

Strong in the justice of her cause, and with confidence in God, she declares that she ignores what may have been decided without her and against her; determined to keep the place which Providence has thus destined to her, she will not cease to oppose to those attacks which are directed against her, the general principles of international right, and the authority of a great European compact which binds the honour of the Signatory Powers of the Protocol of the 31st of March (**No. 483**), which last has no legal validity in her eyes. She appeals to the conscience of the Cabinets which she is justified in considering as animated towards her with the same sentiments of equity and friendship as in the past. Immediate and simultaneous disarmament will be the only efficacious means of obviating the dangers with which the general peace is menaced.

The answer which the Imperial Government has just made to the declaration of the Ambassador of Russia gives the Powers a fitting opportunity to bring about this result, which surely they would not seek to obtain by persistently imposing on the Ottoman Empire sacrifices of right and of honour to which she will not consent.

You are instructed to read this Memorandum to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to leave a copy of it with his Excellency.

No. 485.—*CONVENTION between Roumania and Russia, for regulating the passage of Russian Troops through Roumania. Signed at Bucharest, 16th April, 1877.*

ART.

TABLE.

1. Free Passage of *Russian Army* through *Roumania*. *Russia* to pay all Expenses.
2. *Russia* to maintain Political Rights of *Roumania*, and to maintain and defend her integrity.
3. Special Convention to be signed regulating the Details.
4. Ratifications.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

WORKING in accord with the other Great Powers for the amelioration of the conditions of existence of the Christians subject to the dominion of the Sultan, the Imperial Government of Russia drew the attention of the Guaranteeing Cabinets to the necessity of assuring in an efficacious manner the execution of the reforms demanded of the Porte.

As the excitement of the Mussulmans, and the visible weakness of the Ottoman Government, do not allow it to be hoped that serious measures will be taken for the execution on the part of the Turkish authorities, a military intervention from without may become necessary. In the case of the ulterior development of political affairs in the East forcing Russia to assume this task, and to direct her army into Turkey in Europe, the Imperial Government, desiring to respect the inviolability of the territory of the Roumanian State, has agreed to conclude with the Government of His Highness Prince Charles I a special Convention relative to the passage of the Russian troops through Roumania. Therefore were designated as Plenipotentiaries, on the part of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, Baron D. Stuart, State Counsellor, Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of Russia in Roumania, Chevalier of the Order of St. Vladimir, 3rd Class, St. Ann, 2nd Class, and Medjidie, 3rd Class, &c.; on the part of His Highness the Prince of Roumania, M. Cogalniceano, his Minister for Foreign Affairs, Grand Cross of the Order of St. Ann, 1st Class; Iron Cross, 1st Class; Medjidie, 1st Class, &c., who, after having exchanged

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their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed to the following:—

Free Passage of Russian Army through Roumania.

ART. I. The Government of His Highness the Prince of Roumania, Charles I, assures to the Russian army, which will be called to go into Turkey, a free passage through Roumanian territory and the treatment reserved for friendly armies.

Russia to pay all Expenses.

All the expenses which may be occasioned for the necessities of the Russian army, for transport, and to satisfy all its requirements, fall naturally to the charge of the Imperial Government.

Russia to maintain Political Rights of Roumania, and to maintain and defend her Integrity.

ART. II. That no detriment nor danger may result to Roumania, from the fact of the passage of Russian troops on her territory, the Government of His Imperial Majesty of all the Russias undertakes to maintain and to cause to be respected the political rights of the Roumanian State, as resulting from internal laws and existing Treaties, as also to maintain and defend the actual integrity of Roumania.

Special Convention to be signed regulating the Details.

ART. III. All the details relative to the passage of Russian troops, their relations with the local authorities, as well as all arrangements which have to be made for this purpose, will form a Special Convention,* which will be signed by the Delegates of both Governments, and ratified at the same time as the present, and will come immediately into operation.

Ratifications.

ART. IV. The Government of His Highness the Prince of Roumania undertakes to obtain for the present Convention, as also for that mentioned in the preceding Article, the ratification required by the Roumanian laws, and to render immediately executory the stipulations therein contained.

* See page 2579 (No. 486).

16 April, 1877.]

ROUMANIA AND RUSSIA.

[No. 485]

[Passage of Russian Troops through Roumania.]

In faith of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed and sealed with their arms the present Convention.

Done in Bucharest $\frac{4}{18}$ -th of April, in the year of Grace, 1877.

(L.S.) BARON DEMITRI STUART,
*Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of
Russia in Roumania.*

(L.S.) M. COGALNICEANO,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Roumania.

[An Additional Convention between Roumania and Russia, regulating the details for facilitating the Passage of Russian Troops through Roumania was signed at Bucharest on the ^{4th}_{16th} April, 1877. See **No. 486**].

No. 486.—*ADDITIONAL CONVENTION between Roumania and Russia, regulating the Details for facilitating the Passage of Russian Troops through Roumania. Signed at Bucharest, 16th April, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

FOR the execution of Article III of the Convention signed this day (**No. 485**), the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have met to regulate, by the present Special Convention, the agreements relative to the passage of the Imperial Russian troops, as also their relations with the local authorities.

ART. I. The Roumanian Government accords to the Russian army the use of the railways, rivers, roads, Roumanian posts and telegraphs, and places at its disposition the material resources of the country, in the way of provisions, forage, and transport, in the manner and under the conditions stipulated in the following Articles :—

ART. II. The relations of the Russian military authorities with the local authorities will be made by means of Special Roumanian Commissary Commissioners named to that effect. One Principal Commissioner will be delegated to the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian troops during the whole time of their passage through Roumania.

ART. III. The Roumanian Commissioner will be charged to give information relative to the material resources (such as forage, provisions, firing, &c.) which the country can furnish during the passage of the Russian troops along the railways, as also on the banks of the Pruth and the Danube, indicating the approximate prices of these articles at the places where they are to be delivered, the quantities which could be supplied, and the time when deliveries could be made.

ART. IV. The Russian military authorities, after informing themselves of the particulars mentioned in the previous Article, will decide on the quantities of the products which will be necessary for them, and on the places where they shall be delivered, and they will arrange with the Roumanian Commissioner as to the mode of delivery.

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The furnishing of supplies will be made for account of the Russian army, either by the Roumanian authorities at agreed prices, or with the aid of the latter, by tender, on commission, or by direct purchase.

ART. V. A similar course will be adopted for all acquisitions necessary for encampments, bivouacking, the transport of troops, their baggage, material, and munition of war, as also for hospitals, ambulance, and hospital stores. Roumanian authorities will facilitate the supplying of these necessities.

ART. VI. The Roumanian Government places at the disposition of the Russian army all the railways in the country for its transport, for that of its material, baggage, and stores which accompany it, as also of those things the transport of which may be necessary later. In respect of this transport the Imperial army will be entirely assimilated with the Roumanian army, and will be entitled to the same rights and prerogatives as the latter in all that concerns the obligations of the railway companies with reference to troops, and other conditions and details stipulated for the transport of soldiery by the Cahiers des Charges of the Companies, and by the laws and regulations in vigour in Roumania.

As to the cost of transport, the Roumanian Government undertakes *à priori* to reduce the ordinary tariff 40 per cent., and reserves to itself the arranging of this question by an ulterior understanding with the companies.

As to what concerns expenses and additional payments, such as registration, manipulation, &c., the same course will be adopted as that for the transport of Roumanian soldiery.

ART. VII. The Roumanian Ministry for Public Works will give, on the demand of the Russian Military Traffic Director, the necessary orders and instructions to the administrations of the Roumanian railways; so as to assure with the greatest possible success and celerity the transport of the Imperial Army with its material, baggage, supplies, &c., according to a plan to be agreed on beforehand as is below stipulated.

Military trains will have priority over all others, excepting the post-trains, and without prejudice to the transport of Roumanian troops.

In case of need, the number of ordinary passenger trains may be reduced, and the circulation of goods trains entirely stopped if necessary.

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ART. VIII. For the transport of the Imperial troops and material on the Jassy-Ungheni line, which is of the same gauge as the Russian railways, a unity and continuity of the technical conditions of circulation will be established, after an understanding between both administrations, so as to avoid any delay or changing of carriages at the frontier.

ART. IX. So as to obtain the necessary unity of working on the Roumanian railways, to secure the most prompt and well-regulated transport of the Russian army, with its baggage, material, and munition of war of all descriptions, a Central Council will be instituted, under the direction of the Ministry of Public Works, composed of delegates from the different companies owning parts of the Roumanian railways. A Commissioner, named by the head of military communications of the Imperial army, will be delegated to the Ministry of Public Works to facilitate the business with the Russian military authorities.

The traffic service on all the Roumanian lines will be conducted provisionally under the immediate direction of the Central Council, the Minister of Public Works causing its working to agree with the wants and requirements which will be expressed by the chief of military communications concerning the transport in question.

ART. X. The superior direction and inspection of transport of the Imperial army will belong to the chief of military communications of the said army. So as to secure the continuous and regular service for this transport, it will be worked through a Roumanian Commissioner delegated *ad hoc*, and will suggest through him all the necessary measures to this effect.

ART. XI. The head of military communications will have the faculty of demanding, through the Roumanian Commissioner delegated to him, or through his delegate with the Central Council, the execution of all the works necessary for increasing and for the security of traffic, both on the lines and in the stations, the rolling stock, platforms, sidings, auxiliary embranchments, provisional stations, and the appropriation of goods-waggons and trucks for the transport of men, horses, material, &c. All the cost occasioned by these works will be at the charge of the Russian army; the manner of their being carried out will be regulated between the Minister of Public Works and the chief of the military communications of the Russian army.

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ART. XII. In cases of urgency, the head of military communications will have the faculty, after a preliminary understanding with the Roumanian Commissioner, to replace, by the means at his disposal, everything that may be wanting or may threaten to impede the movement of the Russian army.

He may cause to be immediately suspended by the Roumanian Commissioner, and require of the Minister of Public Works, the dismissal of employés and subaltern agents who may show signs of insubordination.

ART. XIII. If the necessities of communication of the Russian armies make the construction of a section of branch railway necessary on Roumanian territory, the works will be executed by the Russian military authorities at the expense of the Imperial Government.

The Roumanian Government will facilitate these works, and take the required dispositions, so as to secure for the Russian army the right to enjoy temporarily the ground indispensable for the instalment of these railway sections or branch lines, on the basis adopted in Roumania for works of public utility.

When these lines become useless, the materials ("mobile") used in their construction will be at the disposal of the Russian Government, but the works executed will become the property of the Roumanian Government without any remuneration.

ART. XIV. The working of the Roumanian lines will be carried on by the existing companies and administrations, under the direction of the Council mentioned in Article IX of the present Convention.

The companies will be indemnified for all transport effected under the tariff to be established in accordance with Article VI. These companies will also be repaid for all injuries which may accrue to their material through its use or abuse by Russian troops.

ART. XV. A plan for the transport of troops, lists of military trains, forms and details of requisitions for transport, documents of book-keeping and control, the terms and mode of payment, as also states during the time of transport, between Russian troops and the local agents of the Roumanian railways, will be regulated, immediately after the signing of the present Convention, by the Commissioner *ad hoc*.

The companies and the railway administrations must furnish him with all necessary documents and the materials to enable

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him to make this plan, the time-tables and details of service, and must afford him every assistance.

Every question of detail regulated by this Commissioner, and forming special instructions, which, being approved by the head of military communications of the Imperial army and by the Roumanian commissary delegated to him, will be obligatory both for the Russian troops and for the employés of the railways.

ART. XVI. During the passage of the Imperial army any crime or misdemeanour committed by railway employés, with the intention of hindering or stopping the transport of troops, or of putting military trains in danger, will be punished according to the existing Roumanian laws, and with the same rigour as if directed against the Roumanian army.

ART. XVII. The Roumanian Government accords to the Russian army the use of the State posts and telegraphs, and those of the railway companies, on the same footing as the Roumanian authorities whose expenses do not enter into the State Budget. Thus Russian official despatches will have priority over private correspondence.

So as not to impede the ordinary telegraph service, the Russian army will have the faculty, whenever it may be found necessary, to add for themselves an extra wire of their own to the telegraph posts of the State, and to those of the companies, and to fix their own apparatus for their especial use. Such wires will be guarded and looked after the same as Roumanian wires, and without any cost to the Russian army; repairs, however, will be charged for.

ART. XVIII. A line will be established in the rear of the Russian armies with places for storehouses, the town of Bucharest, where there will not be any Russian troops, being excepted.

It is well understood that the troops will not stop except where necessary for resting (or if they find obstacles independent of their will) and only the strict time needed for this purpose.

Along this line, as along the lines the troops move on—storehouses, magazines, and dépôts for provisions, forage and food of all descriptions, may be made—as also bakeries for bread and biscuits—kitchens for the troops, &c. The sites with this purpose will be engaged by the Commissaries of the Russian army, with the concurrence of the Roumanian, on the same conditions as those for the requirements of the State. Similar

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measures will be taken for the acquisition of the materials necessary for the construction and instalment of the said establishments.

ART. XIX. The sick and wounded of the Russian army will be treated and cared for in sanitary establishments, organized for this purpose on the lines of communication, and those of the storehouses, and "étapes," wherever the Russian Commander-in-Chief may deem it necessary—excepting the town of Bucharest—and, as far as possible, away from the centres of population, excepting always hospitals for the wounded.

The Roumanian authorities will give their aid, and accord every facility for the installation of sanitary establishments, as also for the hiring of edifices necessary for such purposes. In places where there will be no Russian hospitals, the sick may be admitted provisionally, as far as possible, into Roumanian sanitary establishments, on payment of expenses for food, treatment, &c.

ART. XX. In localities where halts may be necessary during the passage of the Russian troops, under the conditions of Article XVIII—these troops will have facilities given them for lodging and encampment—which will be procured for them by the care of the local authorities. If from this cause payment become necessary, it will be regulated according to an understanding between the respective Commissioners.

ART. XXI. On the lines of communication of the Imperial army, in localities where military necessities demand the naming of Commanders of Russian Stations, these Commanders will communicate with the local authorities through the Roumanian Commissaries according to Article II.

ART. XXII. The Russian army will have the faculty of establishing bridges and river communications at points where it may be considered necessary, and to construct the works necessary for securing and protecting this passage. The Roumanian Government, for this object, will place barges and boats, &c., at the disposition of the Russian army, &c., *i.e.*, such as can be procured, and as far as the requirements of its own army allow, besides the quantity of wood necessary for construction and other materials, on equitable payment.

ART. XXIII. All payments to be effected, on the occasion of the passage of Russian troops through Roumania, whether to the Government, to the railway companies, or to private per-

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sons, will be calculated on the basis of the monetary unity, Roumanian or French.

These can be made either in money, or "bons," in due form emitted by the Commander of the Imperial army, and payable by the chest of said army, within two months at the outside. The form of these bills, their terms, mode, and place of payment, and control will be regulated and brought to the knowledge of the public, after an understanding between the Russian Commander-in-Chief and the Roumanian Commissary-General.

ART. XXIV. The Roumanian Government accords to the Russian Government for the term whilst the Imperial troops are in Roumania, and on this side of the Danube, the free importation into its territory, without duties, and the free transit of all articles and objects for the provisioning, and munition and war material, destined for the use of the Imperial army and even those things the entry of which is prohibited by Roumanian regulations.

ART. XXV. Should desertion take place of Russian troops during the passage through Roumania, the Roumanian authorities will assist to arrest the culprits, according to indications to be given by the Russian military authorities. Deserters arrested will be given over into the hands of the Russian Military Commanders nearest to the spot where the arrestations are made.

ART. XXVI. Any cases of differences which may occur on the occasion of the passage of Russian troops through Roumania, and which is not provided for by this Convention, shall be regulated by common accord by the Commissioners named *ad hoc* by the Chief Commander of the Russian forces and the Roumanian Commissioner-General.

In faith of which, the respective Plenipotentiaries have put their signatures and seals of their arms to this Supplementary Convention.

Made in duplicate in Bucharest, the $\frac{4\text{th}}{16\text{th}}$ of April, in the year of Grace, 1877.

BARON D. STUART,

*Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General
of Russia in Roumania.*

M. COGALNICEANO,

Minister of Foreign Affairs in Roumania.

No. 487.—*RUSSIAN CIRCULAR*, announcing that Orders had been given to the Russian Armies to cross the Frontiers of Turkey; and explaining the Causes of War. St. Petersburg, 7th April, 1877.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

*Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff, 7th April, 1877.**

(Circular.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

THE Imperial Cabinet has exhausted, since the commencement of the Eastern crisis, all the means in its power to bring about, with the concurrence of the Great Powers of Europe, a lasting pacification of Turkey.

All the propositions successively made to the Porte in consequence of the understanding established between the Cabinets have met with an invincible resistance on its part.

The Protocol signed in London on the 19th 31st March (**No. 483**) of this year was the last expression of the collective will of Europe.

The Imperial Cabinet had suggested it as a supreme effort of conciliation. It had made known, by the declaration bearing the same date and accompanying the Protocol, the conditions which, if loyally accepted and performed by the Ottoman Government, might bring about the re-establishment and consolidation of peace.

The Porte has just answered by a fresh refusal (**No. 484**).

This eventuality had not been contemplated by the Protocol of London. While it formulated the views and decisions of Europe, that document had confined itself to stipulating that in case the Great Powers were deceived in their hope of seeing the Porte apply energetically the measures destined to afford to the condition of the Christian populations the improvement unanimously called for as indispensable to the tranquillity of Europe, they reserved to themselves to consider in common as to the means which they might deem best fitted to secure the well-being of those populations and the interests of the general peace.

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, 24th April, 1877.

[War with Turkey.]

Thus the Cabinets had foreseen the case of the Porte not fulfilling the promises it might have made, but not that of its rejecting the demands of Europe.

At the same time the Declaration made by Lord Derby at the time of signing the Protocol stated that as the Government of Her Britannic Majesty had consented to the signature of that act only in view of the interests of the general peace, it was to be understood beforehand that, in the event of the proposed object not being attained, namely, reciprocal disarmament and peace between Russia and Turkey, the Protocol should be regarded as null and void.

The refusal of the Porte and the reasons on which it is founded, leave no hope of deference on its part to the wishes and counsels of Europe, and no guarantee for the application of the reforms suggested for the improvement of the condition of the Christian populations. They render impossible peace with Montenegro, and the performance of the conditions which might bring about disarmament and pacification. In these circumstances, every chance is closed for efforts of conciliation. There remains no alternative but to allow the state of things to continue which the Powers have declared incompatible with their interests and those of Europe in general, or else to seek to obtain by coercion what the unanimous efforts of the Cabinets have not succeeded in obtaining from the Porte by persuasion.

Our august master has resolved to undertake this work, which His Majesty had invited the Great Powers to pursue in common with him.

He has given his armies the order to cross the frontiers of Turkey (**Nos. 492, 493**).*

You will make known this resolution to the Government to which you are accredited.

In assuming this task, our august master fulfils a duty imposed upon him by the interests of Russia, whose peaceful development is hindered by the permanent disturbances of the East. His Imperial Majesty has the conviction that he responds at the same time to the sentiments and interests of Europe.

Accept, &c.

GORTCHAKOW.

* Diplomatic Relations were suspended, 23rd April (**No. 490**); and War was declared by Russia against Turkey, 24th April, 1877 (**No. 493**).

No. 488.—*NOTE presented by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires (M. Nélidoff) to the Porte, breaking off Diplomatic Relations. Constantinople, April $\frac{11^{th}}{23^{rd}}$, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

THE Russian Imperial Cabinet has exhausted every measure of conciliation with a view to re-establish a lasting peace in the East, by means of an understanding with the Great Powers and the Porte. The way in which the Ottoman Government has rejected all the proposals successively made, and its refusal of the Protocol signed at London the $\frac{19^{th}}{31^{st}}$ of March (**No. 483**), as well as of the declaration by which that document was accompanied, leave no place for further negotiations, nor any hope for an agreement based on the readiness of the Porte to offer the guarantees demanded by Europe in the interests of the general peace.

The Emperor, my august master, has consequently instructed me to break off diplomatic relations and to leave Constantinople with the staff of the Embassy and the Russian Consuls residing in Turkey. I am ordered by His Imperial Majesty to call the Porte's attention at the same time to the grave responsibility which would rest on her if the safety not only of our countrymen, but also of any of the Christian subjects of the Sultan or foreigners, were compromised in any part soever of the Ottoman Empire.

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, 28th April, 1877.

No. 489.—*DESPATCH from Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha, announcing the Rupture of Diplomatic Relations with Russia. Constantinople, 23rd April, 1877.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Chargé d’Affaires has addressed to me a note this day (**No. 488**) to inform me that he has been ordered by his Government to break off diplomatic relations with the Sublime Porte, to leave Constantinople with the members of the Embassy, and to withdraw the Russian Consuls stationed in Turkey. M. Nelidow has already left with the “personnel” of the Embassy. The Sublime Porte has done its utmost to avoid such an extremity; but, in face of the initiative assumed by Russia, the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has been obliged on its side to order the Ottoman Embassy at St. Petersburg, and all its Consuls in Russia, to return to Constantinople.

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, 24th April, 1877.

No. 490.—*DESPATCH from the Chancellor of the Russian Empire to Tefvik Bey, Chargé d'Affaires of Turkey at St. Petersburg, announcing the cessation of Diplomatic Relations with Turkey preparatory to War. St. Petersburg, 24th April, 1877.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

As the important discussions which the Imperial Cabinet has had to carry on with the Ottoman Porte with the view of bringing about a lasting Peace in the East have not resulted in the desired understanding, His Majesty the Emperor, my august Master, finds himself, to his regret, obliged to have recourse to the force of arms (**No. 491**).

Be good enough to inform your Government that, from to-day, Russia considers herself to be in a state of War with Turkey.

The first result of this is the cessation of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

I beg you to be good enough to inform me of the number and rank of the persons composing the Ottoman Embassy at St. Petersburg, in order that we may be able to send you the necessary passports.

As to the Ottoman subjects residing in Russia, those who desire to leave the country are free to do so; those who prefer to remain are fully assured of enjoying the protection of the laws.

GORTCHAKOFF.

* On the same day, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople delivered to the Sublime Porte a Declaration to the same effect. See **No. 491**.

No. 491.—*TURKISH CIRCULAR*, appealing to the Treaty of Paris of 1856, and suggesting the Mediation of the Treaty Powers to prevent the threatened War with Russia. Constantinople, 24th April, 1877.

*Despatch from Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)†

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Chargé d’Affaires has just delivered to the Sublime Porte a declaration to the effect that Russia has exhausted all conciliatory measures for the re-establishment of a lasting peace in the East by means of an understanding with the Great Powers and the Porte; that the successive rejection by the Ottoman Government of the proposals made to them, and the refusal it has opposed to the London Protocol, and the declaration which accompanied it (**No. 483**), leave no hope of an understanding based on the readiness of the Porte to offer the guarantees demanded in the name of a general peace; and that, consequently, His Majesty the Emperor of Russia has authorized his Embassy to break off diplomatic relations, and that, at the same time, the Porte is warned of the grave responsibility which would rest on her if the safety of Russian subjects or of the Christian subjects of the Sultan or of foreigners, were to be compromised in any part whatsoever of the Ottoman Empire. In consequence of this declaration, the Diplomatic and Consular Staff of Russia having left the Territory, it is clear that the pacific relations of the two States, which the Russian armaments have lately so grievously disturbed, are on the point of giving place to declared hostilities.

In the presence of this state of affairs the Sublime Porte still asks herself what are the motives which can justify decisions on the part of the Russian Government so serious as to involve the declaration of war to the Ottoman Empire.

Russia has not been enabled to allege, and as a matter of fact she does not allege, any direct injury of her rights, or any one of those causes which, in international right, authorize a recourse

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, 26th April, 1877.

† For French version see “State Papers,” Vol. 68, page 846.

[Rupture of Diplomatic Relations with Russia.]

to arms. The International Treaties existing between the two States have been scrupulously observed by the Ottoman Government; nowhere have the moral and material interests of Russian subjects been the object of a protection so wide and so effective as that afforded them in Turkey. Russian commerce and navigation have met with no impediment in the States of His Majesty the Sultan, and the consideration which the Sublime Porte has always had for Russia as a neighbouring Great Power, even in the most difficult circumstances, is a strong proof of the great value which the Government of His Majesty the Sultan has attached to the maintenance of its good relations with that of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia. Moreover, as justification for the rupture of diplomatic relations, the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, through their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, only appeals to the rejection of the proposals which had been previously made to the Sublime Porte and the non-acceptance which accompanied it.

At such a critical moment the Sublime Porte regrets to have to oppose the most absolute denial to what has been affirmed by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, concerning the refusal of the Sublime Porte to accept the proposals successively made to her. The London Protocol affirms that the Great Powers, as well as Turkey, are entirely agreed as to the reforms which should be carried out; tranquillity has been restored in Servia, and it is well known that it only depended on the Prince of Montenegro to re-establish his relations with the Sublime Porte on an advantageous footing. All this is so indisputable that it seems useless to the Sublime Porte to say anything further to establish the fact that it is in vain that attempts are made to induce people to believe in the existence of differences of views between her and the Great Powers; and, if the Sublime Porte could not accept the guarantees of execution contained in the London Protocol, nor acquiesce in the conditions of pacification enumerated in the declaration of Count Schouvaloff annexed thereto, the Ottoman Government, regretting still that the Protocol of the ^{19th}/_{31st} March and the declaration of Count Schouvaloff annexed thereto (**No. 483**), are put on the same footing, has already acquainted the Great Powers with the reasons which limit the deference of the Porte to their counsels only by the obligation of guarding the honour and the independence of the Ottoman Empire (**No. 484**).

As she agrees with the Great Powers respecting the most

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essential parts of the reforms, the Sublime Porte asks whether Russia is justified in declaring war on the Ottoman Empire, on account of an act which, from the declarations made at the time of its signature, could only be an authority so long as war had not broken out, in having recourse to arms, she alone of all the Signatories of the Protocol, of attributing to the declaration of Count Schouvaloff a character binding on all the Signatories of the Protocol, of making war in the name of general peace, of letting loose upon all the people, Mussulman and Christian, of the Ottoman Empire, frightful calamities to the better ensure their welfare ; finally, of endangering the integrity and independence of the Empire in search of the conditions of its prosperity.

The Great Powers, whose sagacity these truths will not escape, will rightly estimate both the gravity and the compass of the declaration by which the Russian Chargé d'Affaires has thought it right to draw the attention of the Sublime Porte to the pretended dangers, to which not only Russian subjects, but all the Christians generally, subjects of the Sultan or foreigners, might find themselves exposed. If the position of the Christian subjects of His Majesty the Sultan was so precarious as to justify the war with which Russia threatens the Ottoman Empire, one would not understand the value of the recommendation which the Russian Representative addresses to the Sublime Porte on leaving Constantinople. But it is still more astonishing that this recommendation should have as its object not only all the Christian subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, but also all foreigners, subjects of the other Powers, who have Representatives accredited to the Sublime Porte. The Sublime Porte cannot rightly comprehend the idea which has prompted the Russian Representative to wish to extend to all the Christians generally, foreign subjects or not, this same scheme of protection, which gave rise to the war of twenty years ago, when Russia meant it to apply only to the Orthodox subjects of His Majesty the Sultan. Again, the Great Powers will appreciate the frequent declarations of the Sublime Porte, made in the most categorical form, to assure Europe that the reforms promised by her will be executed. They can rest persuaded that the only means of hastening their realization is that which the Sublime Porte has already indicated, by demanding assurances for an immediate and simultaneous disarmament, and by fre-

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quently insisting on the injustice there would be in exacting from her the application of the promised reforms by means which prevent their giving themselves up to them with the calmness which is indispensable to their ultimate success.

In attempting to impress upon the friendly Governments, which showed such solicitude for the welfare of this country, the ideas which seemed to them the best calculated to bring about the desired result, the Ottoman Government had and still has the feeling that they are fulfilling a sacred duty, being most interested in all that can contribute to the strengthening of order and tranquillity of its States. His Majesty the Sultan and his Government, I repeat, have put no other limits to their deference to the counsels of Europe than those imposed on them by the necessity of guaranteeing against all attack their sovereign rights.

As the ideas of His Majesty the Sultan and his Government are perfectly well known and affirmed in a way that admits of no doubt, they do not wish to lay themselves open, in the eyes of the world and of their own people, to the reproach of not having tried all the means in their power to avert the calamities which are apparently imminent.

The Sublime Porte, consequently, calls attention to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris (No. 264), conceived as follows:—

“If a disagreement were to arise between the Sublime Porte and one or more of the other Signatory Powers, which threatened the maintenance of their relations, the Sublime Porte and each of these Powers, before having recourse to the employment of force, shall put the other Contracting Parties in a position to prevent this extremity by their action as mediators.”

Although it is not the Ottoman Government which threatens to take the initiative in the aggression, and in consequence, strictly, the Russian Government should make the appeal to these stipulations of the Treaty of Paris, the Imperial Government, to avoid all misunderstanding, appeals to the Powers signatories of this Treaty, to have the goodness, under the present serious circumstances, to make application of the above-mentioned Article, and put an end to the very perilous state of relations of the two States, by means of mediatory action according to right and Treaty. Independently of any Treaty stipulation, the action of the Powers would be justified by the very

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reason, which, according to the declaration of her Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, Russia would give now for her military action, in alleging the refusal of the Porte to accede to the proposals made to her by all the Powers, and to the Act signed by them.

In drawing attention to the fact that this step exactly answers both the provisions of Article VIII of the Treaty of Paris, and the motives for rupture invoked by Russia, the Sublime Porte expresses its conviction that the friendly Powers, faithful to the sentiments of kindly interest which they have always displayed towards the Ottoman Empire, will seize this legitimate opportunity of staying the explosion of a great war, and thus sparing these countries the grievous extremities they are menaced with, and Europe herself the trouble and danger which would result from a conflict between the two States—a conflict all responsibility for which the Sublime Porte has the right to repudiate.

Be good enough to read to, and leave a copy of this despatch with, the Government you are accredited to.

No. 492.—*PROCLAMATION of the Roumanian Government, on the passage of Russian Troops across the Roumanian Frontier. Bucharest, $\frac{1}{2}\frac{3}{4}$ th April, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

On the morning of the $\frac{11}{23}$ rd April, the Government received from the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire an invitation to come to an understanding with the Commander of the Turkish armies, his Excellency Abdul Kerim Pasha, to protect the Roumanian territory against the invasion of the Imperial Russian armies, which appears to be imminent.

In the course of yesterday and this morning, the Prefects of the districts contiguous to Russian Bessarabia informed the Government that the Imperial Russian army had commenced the entrance into Roumania at three points: Bestimac, district Cahul, opposite the town of Leova, on the Pruth, where the "avant-garde" had arrived; Tabac, district Bolgrad; and Ungheni, the extremity of the railway, Jassy-Ungheni, the "avant-garde" having already entered Jassy (**No. 487**).

Having these two facts in view, they having taken place before the Legislative Chambers can meet, the Government could not and cannot do otherwise than keep to the line of conduct traced out by the Legislative bodies in their last Session—the maintenance of the rights of Roumania and neutrality.

Until the opening of Parliament, which takes place the day after to-morrow, the $\frac{1}{2}\frac{3}{4}$ th April, when the country will be in a position to speak its decisive word, the Government, not wishing to take upon itself the responsibility of prejudicing this decision, has taken the following measures in the interest of public order:—

1. So as to avoid any conflict which might engage the nation before its voice has been expressed by its legislative organ, the Roumanian troops stationed on the frontier have received orders to withdraw into the interior, so as to avoid, on their part, any conflict which might draw the war into the interior of the country.

2. The Prefects of the districts on the frontiers, in the face of demands made by commanders of troops entered and which

[Passage of Russian Troops across the Frontier.]

may enter, are not to interfere as agents of the Central authority, but have to restrict themselves to acting as simple police functionaries, and by officious means to protect and warn the population against disorders and conflicts, leaving to the municipal authorities to represent the occupied communes "vis-à-vis" with the commanders of troops.

3. The population along the Danube has been made aware of the desirability of withdrawing, with their goods and property, to communes further from the frontier.

Any fresh incident that may happen will be immediately made known to the public.

J. C. BRATIANO.
M. COGALNICEANO.
J. DOCAN.
G. CHITU.
J. CAMPINENU.
General CERNAT.

Bucharest, $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ th April, 1877.

No. 493.—*MANIFESTO of the Emperor of Russia announcing War with Turkey. St. Petersburg, 24th April, 1877.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

WE, Alexander II, by the Grace of God Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, &c.,

Make known :—

Our faithful and beloved subjects know the lively interest which we have always devoted to the destinies of the oppressed Christian population of Turkey. Our desire to ameliorate and guarantee their condition has been shared by the whole of the Russian nation, which shows itself ready to-day to make fresh sacrifices to relieve the condition of the Christians in the Balkan Peninsula.

The life and property of our faithful subjects have always been dear to us. Our whole reign testifies to our constant anxiety to preserve to Russia the benefits of peace. This anxiety did not cease to animate us at the time of the sad events which came to pass in Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria. We made it pre-eminently our object to attain the amelioration of the condition of Christians in the East by means of peaceful negotiations and concerted action with the great European Powers, our allies and friends.

During two years we have made incessant efforts to induce the Porte to adopt such reforms as would protect the Christians of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria from the arbitrary rule of the local authorities. The execution of these reforms followed, as a direct obligation, from the anterior engagements solemnly contracted by the Porte in the sight of all Europe. Our efforts, although supported by the joint diplomatic representations of the other Governments, have not attained the desired end. The Porte has remained immovable in its categorical refusal of every effectual guarantee for the security of its Christian subjects, and

* The British Proclamation of Neutrality in this War was issued on the 30th of April, 1877. See "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 859. Declarations of Neutrality on the part of other States will also be found in the same Volume.

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it rejected the demands of the Conference of Constantinople. Wishing to try all possible means of conciliation in order to persuade the Porte, we proposed to the other Cabinets to draw up a special Protocol, comprising the most essential conditions of the Conference of Constantinople, and to invite the Turkish Government to join this international action which traces the extreme limits of our peaceable demands. But our expectation was not realised. The Porte has not deferred to this unanimous wish of Christian Europe, and has not complied with the demands of the Protocol (No. 483).

Having exhausted our peaceful efforts, we are obliged by the haughty obstinacy of the Porte to proceed to more determined action. The sentiment of equity and that of our own dignity render it imperative. Turkey, by its refusal, places us under the necessity of having recourse to arms. Deeply convinced of the justice of our cause, and relying in all humility upon the grace and assistance of the Most High, we make known to our faithful subjects that the moment foreseen by us when we pronounced these words, to which the whole of Russia answered with such unanimity, has actually arrived. We expressed our intention of acting independently should we deem it necessary, and should the honour of Russia require it (No. 473). To-day, in invoking the blessing of God upon our valiant armies, we give them the order to cross the frontier of Turkey.

Given at Kischeneff, the $\frac{1}{2}$ ¹/₄th day of the month of April, of the year of Grace 1877, the 23rd of our reign.

ALEXANDER.

No. 494.—*TURKISH PROTEST against Russian Declaration of War and Invasion of Turkish Territory without first appealing to the Mediation of the Treaty Powers. Constantinople, 25th April, 1877.*

*Despatch from Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIA has declared War against the Ottoman Empire in a note delivered by Prince Gortchakow to our Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg yesterday morning, the 24th (No. 490), which reached us the same day.

At the same moment, and possibly even some hours previously, at all events before this declaration could have reached the Sublime Porte, the Russian army began hostilities by invading the Moldo-Wallachian territory (No. 492) and passing the Asiatic frontier.

In bringing these facts to the knowledge of the Government to which you are accredited, you will point out all the irregularity of such a proceeding, and how contrary it is to the rules universally observed by civilized States.

I beg that you will add that the Sublime Porte protests with all the more reason against this proceeding, as Russia has declared war without having had recourse to the Mediation of the Powers, as she should have done under Article VIII of the Treaty of 1856 (No. 264). You will compare this contempt of Russia for international obligations with the care taken by the Sublime Porte, from the moment she saw war was imminent with Russia, to make a formal request for Mediation to the friendly Powers, as well in the interest of European peace as in the interests of humanity.

We hope that the Governments of Europe, as well as public opinion, will appreciate these facts, and will take them into consideration when they shall have to determine the amount of responsibility which falls on each of the two States in the armed conflict which has just broken out.

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, 26th April, 1877.

No. 495.—*TURKISH MANIFESTO in answer to the Russian Declaration of War. Constantinople, 26th April, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

*Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.**

(Telegraphic.)

I HEREWITH transmit to you the Manifesto of the Sublime Porte, published to-day in the papers of the capital.

Russia, by declaring War against the Ottoman Empire, and by beginning hostilities by the invasion of our Asiatic provinces, and of a Principality which forms an integral part of the Sultan's dominions (**No. 492**), gives the saddest of issues to the troubles and political difficulties which have agitated the East for nearly two years.

Europe, who in the interest of humanity and to assure its own peace, has laboured ardently and perseveringly to obviate this regrettable eventuality, has doubtless the right to investigate the causes of the want of success of her efforts, and to decide on which of the two States ought to fall the responsibility of the war and of its consequent calamities.

It is the duty of the Sultan's Government, on its side, at this solemn moment, to place before the eyes of its subjects, and of friendly Powers, a faithful account of its conduct and of the political events which have brought about the existing state of affairs.

During the course of the year 1875, two of the provinces of the Empire, agitated by revolutionary propaganda from abroad, rose in full revolt against the lawful authority of the Sultan (**No. 452**), and the evil, under the pernicious influence of the Panslavist insurrectionary societies threatened to affect other provinces, and to carry desolation and ruin amongst the most peaceful populations of the Empire. Twice did the friendly Powers try to bring about the pacification of these provinces, first, by means of the mediation of the Consuls, but this had no

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, 28th April, 1877.

other effect than to prove the contempt entertained by the chiefs of the Slav conspiracy for the wishes of Europe; secondly, by means of a project of reform prepared by the Vienna Cabinet which, after having been accepted by the Sublime Porte, was rejected by the insurgents.

To oppose these attacks, as well as to prevent the scourge of war from spreading to other provinces, the Imperial Government summoned the whole military force of the nation, and thanks to this great and patriotic effort, succeeded in quelling the revolt, in preserving the integrity of the Empire, and in sparing Europe herself the inevitable reaction which must arise from a general disturbance in the East.

Turkey, therefore, fulfilled a real duty towards herself and Europe, by taking up arms for the re-establishment of order, and for the preservation of European quiet and peace. There was another, no less imperative, duty which was forced on the consideration of the Imperial Government, namely, to repair the faults of the past, to grant to the country liberal institutions, and to reorganize the Government of the State in accordance with the principles of European civilization. This work of governmental and administrative reform, founded on the Constitutional Charter issued by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan (No. 476) is being carried out at this moment by the will of the Sovereign and of his Ministers, who are absolutely devoted to this task; and is seconded by the disposition of the country, which welcomed with happiness and gratitude the Constitutional reform, and by the efforts and labours of the two Chambers which constitute the Ottoman Parliament.

Nevertheless, Europe had not given up the hope of putting an end to a state of things which she not unreasonably considered as dangerous to herself. Sure of finding the Sultan's Government disposed to follow her anew in the course of conciliation, she had proposed to assemble at Constantinople a Conference which might settle, in concert with the Sublime Porte, and on bases agreed on beforehand, definite means for the re-establishment of peace (No. 477). This phase of the Eastern question is too vivid in the minds of all for it to be necessary to reiterate the circumstances. Suffice it to recall that the Great Powers, after having deliberated amongst themselves, and without the concurrence of the Sublime Porte, were led to introduce into the programme of the Conference some new elements, in opposition to

the bases proposed by England, which had induced the consent of the Imperial Government to it; that notwithstanding the Porte's objection to allow questions of internal administration to be discussed, its delegates gave, out of deference to the views of Europe, the most satisfactory and complete assurances, and it may be said, the most conclusive proofs with respect to administrative reform; that, finally, an agreement may be said to have been arrived at on this point, as well as on the general condition of the pacification of the vassal provinces, and that if the Conference was dissolved without having ratified any of the results arrived at, it was in consequence of the refusal of the Sublime Porte to adhere to the two stipulations, so-called guarantees, that the Powers wished to impose on her. If, then, there is a manifest truth, and one which has never been contested even by the enemies of Turkey, it is this—that these two conditions amounted to an attack on the independence of the Ottoman Empire, and on the most sacred principles of international law, and to a formal breach of the stipulations of the Treaty of 1856 (No. 264), which forbids the Powers who signed it to interfere in any way in the interior administration of Turkey. It seems that, under these circumstances, the failure of the Constantinople Conference (No. 477) could bring about no other consequence than that of binding the Great Powers to await with confidence the effect of the moral engagements which the Sublime Porte had undertaken towards them, and the results of the new method of administration created by the Ottoman Constitution (No. 476).

The Imperial Government, in fact, had begun its task, not only by devoting itself to the application of the principles of its constitutional rule, but also by entering of its own accord into negotiations with Servia and Montenegro for the re-establishment of peace between those two Principalities and the Sovereign Court. This last part of its task was being accomplished. Servia was pacified (No. 480), and the friendly feeling shown by the Sublime Porte to Montenegro seemed to have overcome the difficulties arising from the inadmissible pretensions of this Principality. The Imperial Government could not be checked in the accomplishment of its task by the necessity of maintaining its army on a war footing and thus of supporting the crushing weight of an armed peace. It sought therefore to disarm, but, before putting this resolution (one so imperatively demanded by the state of affairs) into execution, it was necessary that Europe

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should not remain indifferent, and that she should aid Turkey with her good-will, so that the demobilization of the Ottoman army should not be an act of imprudence or of careless haste. It was at the moment when the Sublime Porte was engaged in inviting Europe to this peaceful negotiation that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg thought fit to initiate new attempts, not for agreement, but of pressure on the Imperial Government. From this entirely unexpected diplomatic campaign issued the London Protocol (**No. 483**), deliberated on and signed without the Imperial Government having been called upon to discuss its terms, without its even having been consulted on it. The same reasons which had forced the Sublime Porte to reject certain articles of the project of the Constantinople Conference, made it their duty to decline the new resolutions of Europe (**No. 484**), rendered still more inadmissible by the separate declarations by which Russia had caused them to be preceded. No Government, careful of its honour and of its independence, could have subscribed to the programme which was offered it.

Though quite aware that its refusal, in presence of a neighbour at once powerful and ready to support its pretensions by arms, exposed it to attack, the Government of the Sultan, supported by the unanimous feeling of the Representatives of the nation, did not hesitate to maintain the integrity of its autonomy.¹ This possibility, unhappily, was realized. Russia, after having vainly tried to weaken and lower the Ottoman Empire by forcing foreign dictation upon it, is now trying to carry out by force of arms her ambitious policy. She will find her way barred by a whole people armed for the defence of their territory, for the preservation of their homes, for the maintenance of the rights of their Sovereign, for the independence of their country. But at the moment when this savage struggle is about to begin, and whatever may be its result, Europe, the entire world, must learn the truth; all the races of the Empire to-day rallied around the Sultan's Throne by common consent, must know the cause of the calamities which they have endured and of the new calamities to which their country will shortly be exposed; in short, whether victorious or defeated, the Ottoman Empire must be relieved from the responsibility of this war. For this reason the Imperial Government considers it its duty to affirm that the Christian populations of the Herzegovina, of Bosnia, and of the Vilayets inhabited by Bulgarians, only rose at the instigation of

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the Panslavist Committees, organized and paid by Russia; that Serbia and Montenegro only took up arms against their Sovereign Court at the direct instance of Russia; that they were only able to sustain the contest by the help of Russia; that, in fact, all the evils which have afflicted for the last two years that part of the Empire, are due to the action, open or veiled, but always present, of Russia.

Let Europe now survey the ruin which the policy of Russia has already caused in Turkey. Let her examine and judge impartially the pretended grievances which afford Russia a pretext for disturbing the general peace, and for plunging two great States into the horrors of war, and then let her verdict satisfy public feeling.

Turkey's aggressor is as much the enemy of the Christians as of the Mussulmans; for it has brought on them more evils than it has ever been able to promise benefits in its deceitful invitations to civil war.

It dares pretend that it has armed to protect the Christians, and this at the very moment when the most complete Constitution a country could wish for proclaims the principle of equality amongst all Ottomans (**No. 476**)—at the moment when this principle daily receives a ratification of such a character that it would be henceforth impossible for the Sublime Porte to adopt any act of internal administration, good or evil, without its being to the advantage or prejudice of all, Mussulmans or non-Mussulmans, living under the authority of the Sultan. The Imperial Government said to Russia, as to the other European Powers, "Watch and judge," and to these loyal and sincere words Russia has replied by a Declaration of War (**No. 493**), without previously having recourse to the Mediation of Europe (**No. 494**), as was her duty under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris (**No. 264**), without giving the Powers the time and the means of accomplishing that difficult task with respect to which the Imperial Government declares that it has done its duty. In fact, Russia, despising all the rules observed in like cases by civilized States, notified her Declaration of War to the Chargé d'Affaires of Turkey at St. Petersburg (**No. 490**) at the same time that she broke off relations with the Sublime Porte through her own Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople; but in the very night preceding her own Declaration of War, she invaded the territory of the Empire (*see* **No. 492**). History will take note of this

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astounding fact, that in this age of enlightenment, of civilization, and of justice, a great Power has carried into a neighbouring State fire and sword, because that State demanded that international engagements, the eternal rules of international law, the independence of its internal administration, and, above all, the honour and dignity of its Sovereign, should be respected in her case, as it respected them in that of other States. The Ottoman army will march to meet the aggressor, to defend these sacred principles, and to repel the most hateful and most odious of enterprises. The whole nation, surrounding its august Sovereign, confident in the triumph of its most just cause, resolved to make every sacrifice, resigned to every suffering, is ready to fight and to die for its independence.

May the Almighty protect the right.

[Various notifications issued by the British, Russian, and Turkish Governments, between April and August, 1877, relating to matters arising out of the War between Russia and Turkey, as well as the Proclamations issued by several Foreign Powers declaring their Neutrality in the War, are given in the "State Papers," see Vol. 68, pages 915 and 1388.]

No. 496.—*DESPATCH from the British Minister for Foreign Affairs to the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, recording the disapproval of the British Government of the Russian Invasion of Turkish Territory. London, 1st May, 1877.*

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, 1st May, 1877.

I FORWARDED to your Excellency, in my despatch of the 24th ultimo, a copy of Prince Gortchakow's Circular despatch of the 7th ultimo (**No. 487**), announcing that the Emperor of Russia had given orders to his armies to cross the frontiers of Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government have received this communication with deep regret. They cannot accept the statements and conclusions with which Prince Gortchakow has accompanied it, as justifying the resolution thus taken.

The Protocol to which Her Majesty's Government, at the instance of that of Russia, recently became parties (**No. 483**) required from the Sultan no fresh guarantees for the reform of his administration. With a view of enabling Russia the better to abstain from isolated action, it affirmed the interest taken in common by the Powers in the condition of the Christian populations of Turkey. It went on to declare that the Powers would watch carefully the manner in which the promises of the Ottoman Government were carried into effect; and that should their hopes once more be disappointed, they reserved to themselves the right to consider in common the means which they might deem best fitted to secure the well-being of the Christian populations and the interests of the general peace.

To these declarations of the intentions of the Powers the consent of the Porte was not asked or required. The Porte no doubt has thought fit—unfortunately, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government—to protest against the expressions in question as implying an encroachment on the Sultan's sovereignty and independence (**No. 484**). But while so doing, and while declaring that they cannot consider the Protocol as having any binding character on Turkey, the Turkish Government have again affirmed their intention of carrying into execution the reforms already promised.

[Russian Invasion of Turkey.]

Her Majesty's Government cannot therefore admit, as is contended by Prince Gortchakow, that the answer of the Porte removed all hope of deference on its part to the wishes and advice of Europe, and all security for the application of the suggested reforms. Nor are they of opinion that the terms of the note necessarily precluded the possibility of the conclusion of peace with Montenegro, or of the arrangement of mutual disarmament. Her Majesty's Government still believe that, with patience and moderation on both sides, these objects might not improbably have been attained.

Prince Gortchakow, however, asserts that all opening is now closed for attempts at conciliation; that the Emperor has resolved to undertake the task of obtaining by coercion that which the unanimous efforts of all the Powers have failed to obtain from the Porte by persuasion; and he expresses His Imperial Majesty's conviction that this step is in accordance with the sentiments and the interests of Europe.

It cannot be expected that Her Majesty's Government should agree in this view. They have not concealed their feeling that the presence of large Russian forces on the frontiers of Turkey, menacing its safety, rendering disarmament impossible, and exciting a feeling of apprehension and fanaticism among the Mussulman population, constituted a material obstacle to internal pacification and reform. They cannot believe that the entrance of those armies on Turkish soil will alleviate the difficulty, or improve the condition of the Christian population throughout the Sultan's dominions.

But the course on which the Russian Government has entered involves graver and more serious considerations. It is in contravention of the stipulation of the Treaty of Paris of March 30, 1856 (**No. 264**), by which Russia and the other signatory Powers engaged, each on its own part, to respect the independence and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire. In the Conferences of London of 1871, at the close of which the above stipulation with others was again confirmed, the Russian Plenipotentiary, in common with those of the other Powers, signed a Declaration affirming it to be "an essential principle of the law of nations that no Power can liberate itself from the engagements of a Treaty, nor modify the stipulations thereof, unless with the consent of the Contracting Parties by means of an amicable arrangement" (**No. 433**).

[Russian Invasion of Turkey.]

In taking action against Turkey on his own part, and having recourse to arms without further consultation with his allies, the Emperor of Russia has separated himself from the European concert hitherto maintained, and has at the same time departed from the rule to which he himself had solemnly recorded his consent.

It is impossible to foresee the consequences of such an act. Her Majesty's Government would willingly have refrained from making any observations in regard to it; but, as Prince Gortchakow seems to assume, in a Declaration addressed to all the Governments of Europe, that Russia is acting in the interest of Great Britain and that of the other Powers, they feel bound to state in a manner equally formal and public, that the decision of the Russian Government is not one which can have their concurrence or approval.

I am, &c.

DERBY.

No. 497.—*DESPATCH from Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha, on the attitude of the United Principalities towards Russia. Constantinople, 2nd May, 1877.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(Telegraphic.)

THE Government to which you are accredited will have taken cognisance of the Message which Prince Charles addressed to the Chamber of Deputies, which met at Bucharest on the 26th April.† The United Principalities had been invaded two days previously, and in many directions, by the Russian armies (**No. 492**). It is consequently the duty of the Sublime Porte to consider the sentiments pronounced in this Message, and the acts of the Government of the Prince, which have or might follow this, not as springing from the free-will of the authorities or inhabitants of the Principalities, but rather as the direct consequence of the foreign occupation. The sad condition to which the Principalities are thus reduced is now a *fait accompli*. The Porte has, then, only one duty to fulfil, to call attention to the fact that she has done all in her power to prevent it, and that she has not incurred in any manner or degree any responsibility on this head.

It did not depend on the Sublime Porte alone to recognise and to cause Europe to recognise the neutrality of the Principalities. If she did not think it necessary to initiate in the Constantinople Conferences the proposal for the perpetual neutrality of the United Principalities, it was because the object of the Conference was of another character, and because the Porte would not have been justified in raising on its own account alone questions foreign to the programme of the Conference. She was, moreover, afraid, in approaching this question in any sense whatever, that it might furnish Russia with new pretexts for grievance, as the latter would doubtless have looked on such a proposal as a measure directed against herself.

The Sublime Porte was, moreover, convinced that the Principalities would, if they wished it, always find in the dispositions

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, 4th May, 1877.

† See "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 1323.

[United Principalities.]

of the Treaty of Paris (**No. 264**) sufficient means to cause the protection of their territory, and that Russia would herself pause before the barrier which engagements entered into with all Europe had created. These dispositions of the Treaty of Paris enjoined, in fact, the Principalities to combine their military action with that of the Imperial Government for the defence of their territory, at the same time that they forbade the entry of the Principalities themselves, even by the armies of the Suzerain Court, and this even if the internal order was disturbed, without the previous agreement of all the Powers signatories of the Treaty. In face of such explicit international stipulations, it is impossible to admit the excuse alleged by the Government of the Prince, to wit, legal and physical inability to oppose the invasion of the Principalities. It is quite as plain that Russia, by entering the Principalities, as she has just done, has broken international engagements not less solemn than those which would have followed a formal acknowledgment of the neutrality of this territory.

On the other hand, the Imperial Government had not omitted proposing to the Government of the Prince to unite with his Suzerain Court with reference to the military action which circumstances might dictate; and although this offer was declined, the Sublime Porte nevertheless addressed lately an official invitation to the Government of the Prince to unite their efforts with the Porte's to combat the common danger. The answer of the Prince in the face of an imminent invasion was most dilatory. Your Excellency will judge of this by the telegram of the Sublime Porte which I communicated to you on the 22nd of April and by the one which I transmit herewith, addressed to His Highness the Grand Vizier by M. Cogalniceano on the 23rd April, as answer to the offer of defence and protection which was made him.

The Sublime Porte is conscious of having scrupulously fulfilled her duties as Suzerain Government towards the United Principalities. It now is the part of the great friendly Powers to judge whether, in view of the schemes of Russia against which the Sublime Porte protests sword in hand, the attitude which the Government of Prince Charles has preserved in this state of affairs is really in conformity with the obligations imposed upon him. Whilst the Sublime Porte was offering to that Government the means of defending the country

[United Principalities.]

against the invasion of the enemy, the Ministers at Bucharest were in secret negotiation with Russia, and concluded on the $\frac{4}{16}$ th April (Nos. 485, 486) the Convention which has just been communicated to the Chambers, and by which all the resources of the country were put beforehand at the disposal of the invader. The publication of this Convention has revealed a state of affairs which the Porte was far from suspecting, and which causes the gravest responsibility to rest on a Government which, forgetful of all its duties, has not hesitated to contract with the foreigner shameful arrangements for facilitating the invasion of the Empire, thus betraying at once the interests of the country, the confidence of the Suzerain Government, and the hopes that all Europe had founded on the institutions of the United Principalities. The judgment pronounced on acts stained with such flagrant treason cannot be too severe.

Meanwhile, and notwithstanding that Russia has promised not to enter the town of Bucharest, the Sublime Porte must consider the Prince, as well as the legal authorities of the country as being in the enemy's power, and consequently such acts and decisions as may emanate during the period of occupation, and which might affect directly or indirectly the relations of the Principalities with the Sovereign Court, are deprived of lawful authority.

You will read and give a copy of this despatch to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

ANNEX.

M. Cogalniceano to the Grand Vizier. Bucharest, 23rd April, 1877.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

The Government of the Prince has considered the despatch addressed by your Highness on the 22nd instant to His Highness the Prince of Roumania; and the contents of that despatch, requesting us to take military steps in concert with the Imperial Government, so as to repel the Russian invasion, is of too serious a nature for the executive power to take on itself to pronounce upon them.

I have, therefore, the honour to inform your Highness that

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the Roumanian Parliament alone has the right to decide whether Roumania shall take part in the war, and thereby abandon the neutral course which has been moreover constantly recommended to her by the Sublime Porte herself, as well as by the Guaranteeing Powers.

The Parliament is convoked in an extraordinary session on the 26th of April. As soon as the new Senate has been verified, the political situation will be instantly communicated to the legislative bodies, and your Highness's note at the very first moment. Immediately afterwards I shall lose no time in communicating to the Imperial Government the decision of our Parliament.

Your Highness—now Prime Minister of a Constitutional and Parliamentary Government—will surely not ask the Roumanian Government to violate the rules of a Constitution recognised by Europe, and without the opinion of the nation to pronounce on an affair of such importance as that which forms the object of the despatch of the Imperial Government.

Explanatory letter and details by courier.

No. 498.—*TURKISH NOTIFICATION of the Suspension of Relations with Roumanian Diplomatic Agent. Constantinople, 3rd May, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 3, 1877.

IN continuation of my telegram of yesterday, I hasten to inform you that, in consequence of the Convention agreed upon between the Government of the Prince and Russia on 16th of last April (**No. 485**), with the object of preparing the way for the occupation by the enemy of the territory of the Principalities, which occupation took place on 24th of April, I have just notified to the Agency of the Prince that his duties are suspended from to-day's date.

Nevertheless, the Moldo-Wallachians inhabiting or chancing to be in the Empire will still enjoy, as before, the protection of the Imperial laws and authorities in the same degree as the faithful servants of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

The Moldo-Wallachian ships will continue in the same way under the protection of the Imperial authorities in the Empire and of the Ottoman Consuls abroad.

You will communicate this decision to the Government to which you are accredited, and give instructions to the above effect to the Consuls under your orders.

No. 499.—*DESPATCH from the Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff, defining British Interests in the East. Foreign Office, 6th May, 1877.*

TABLE.

Suez Canal.

Egypt.

Constantinople.

Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

Persian Gulf, &c.

Constantinople, Bulgaria, &c.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 6th instant, in which you inform me that you are about to proceed to Russia on a short leave of absence.

As your Excellency will then doubtless have an opportunity of personally conferring with your Government, I take this occasion of placing before them some considerations of importance to the future good understanding between Great Britain and Russia.

Her Majesty's Government do not propose again to enter on the question of the justice or necessity of the present war; they have already expressed their views with regard to it, and further discussion would be unavailing. They have accepted the obligations which a state of war imposed upon them, and have lost no time in issuing a Proclamation of Neutrality. They, from the first, warned the Porte that it must not look to them for assistance, and they are determined to carry impartially into effect the policy thus announced, so long as Turkish interests alone are involved.

At the same time they think it right that there should be no misunderstanding as to their positions and intentions. Should the war now in progress unfortunately spread, interests may be imperilled which they are equally bound and determined to defend, and it is desirable that they should make it clear, so far as at the outset of the war can be done, what the most prominent of those interests are.

[British Interests in the East.]

Suez Canal.

Foremost among them is the necessity of keeping open, uninjured and uninterrupted, the communication between Europe and the East by the Suez Canal. An attempt to blockade or otherwise to interfere with the Canal or its approaches would be regarded by them as a menace to India, and as a grave injury to the commerce of the world. On both these grounds any such step—which they hope and fully believe there is no intention on the part of either belligerent to take—would be inconsistent with the maintenance by them of an attitude of passive neutrality.

Egypt.

The mercantile and financial interests of European nations are also so largely involved in Egypt that an attack on that country, or its occupation, even temporary, for purposes of war, could scarcely be regarded with unconcern by the neutral Powers, certainly not by England.

Constantinople.

The vast importance of Constantinople, whether in a military, a political, or a commercial point of view, is too well understood to require explanation. It is, therefore, scarcely necessary to point out that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to witness with indifference the passing into other hands than those of its present possessors, of a capital holding so peculiar and commanding a position.

Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

The existing arrangements made under European sanction which regulate the navigation of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles (Nos. 193, 265, 439), appear to them wise and salutary, and there would be, in their judgment, serious objections to their alteration in any material particular.

Persian Gulf; and other Interests.

Her Majesty's Government have thought it right thus frankly to indicate their views. The course of events might show that there were still other interests, as, for instance, on the Persian Gulf, which it would be their duty to protect; but they do not

[British Interests in the East.]

doubt that they will have sufficiently pointed out to your Excellency the limits within which they hope that the war may be confined, or, at all events, those within which they themselves would be prepared, so far as present circumstances allow of an opinion being formed, to maintain a policy of abstention and neutrality.

Constantinople. Bulgaria.

They feel confident that the Emperor of Russia will appreciate their desire to make their policy understood at the outset of the war, and thus to respond to the assurances given by His Imperial Majesty at Livadia (**No. 471**), and published at your Excellency's request, when he pledged his word of honour that he had no intention of acquiring Constantinople, and that, if necessity should oblige him to occupy a portion of Bulgaria, it would only be provisionally, and until the peace and safety of the Christian population were secured.

Her Majesty's Government cannot better show their confidence in these declarations of His Imperial Majesty than by requesting your Excellency to be so good as to convey to the Emperor and the Russian Government the frank explanations of British policy which I have had the honour of thus offering to you.

I have, &c.

DERBY.

[For the Russian Reply to this Despatch, dated 30th May, 1877, see **No. 501**, and Note, page 2627.]

No. 500.—*DESPATCH from the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Roumanian Agent at Paris, announcing the existence of a State of War with Turkey. Bucharest, ^{2nd}/_{14th} May, 1877.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

M. l'Agent,

THE publication in the "Moniteur Officiel" of the Conventions concluded between the Imperial Government of Russia and the Government of the Prince (**Nos. 485, 486**), and the Protest addressed on 2nd May by the Sublime Porte to its representatives at foreign Courts (**No. 497**), have informed you of our present position. The moment, therefore, seems to me favourable for putting on paper the reasons which determined the line of conduct forced on us by the exceptional circumstances in the midst of which we are placed.

You are aware, M. l'Agent, that from the very beginning of the insurrection in the Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria, and of the campaign undertaken by Servia and Montenegro against Turkey, the Government of his Most Serene Highness, in deference to the advice of the Guaranteeing Powers, accepted the obligations imposed by the strictest neutrality (**No. 452**); and if such a position could not be taken up without prejudice to our relations, both moral and material, with the population of the right bank, we could, nevertheless, indulge the hope that our conduct would receive compensation when the question of our neutrality came to be definitely settled.

Thus, when more recently the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Turkey seemed imminent, we suggested, both to the Great Powers and to the Porte, that the time had come for transforming and for placing on the footing of a formal right the obligations imposed on us by our neutrality, necessary for all sides, and which we have accepted, without gaining any advantage therefrom for Roumania. Nevertheless, the Great Powers, whether separately or united in Conference at Constantinople, refused to sanction a petition, which subsequent events have but too much justified, on the plea that the stipulations

* Communicated to Lord Lyons by M. Callimaki-Catargi, 16th May, 1877.

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which touch on this important point are insufficient, and without taking into account either the gravity of the situation or our real difficulties.

On the other hand, the Sublime Porte, employing a system of delay which its own interests should have made it abandon long ago, maintained its refusal to settle the questions which have been pending these many years between the Governments of the Sultan and of the Prince. As a striking example of the Porte's conduct towards us, even at a time when its own interests called for good relations with our country, I may mention that it continued to deny us the recognition of the name Roumania, a title which had already received the sanction of all the Guaranteeing Powers.*

Left alone, without either advice or support, we could not fail to find ourselves confronted by such a line of action as the imminence of war left us to anticipate, and which the attitude of indifference on the part of the Great Powers seemed naturally to authorize. Russia proposed to us that we should frankly enter into negotiations with her for the passage of the Imperial armies through our territory. She held the language of a Power which, having helped to create the Roumanian State, and joined in the guarantee of her political existence, had no intention whatever of giving the lie to her own work by a violation of our rights. Moreover, Russia appeared to us to be morally the mandataire of the Great Powers in carrying out a mission which Europe herself, in public and joint resolutions, had solemnly drawn up and agreed to. Had we, disregarding our legitimate sentiment of preservation, and failing to recognise the honourable character of the overtures made to us, given an inconsiderate refusal, and one which excluded all idea of assistance, Roumania might have found herself involved by her own fault in a fatal violation of her territory, of her rights, and of her dearest interests.

I will not dwell any longer, M. l'Agent, on the urgent considerations which counselled us to adhere to the proposals of the Russian Imperial Government, and I leave it to the Conventions

* On the 30th of November, 1876, the title of "Roumania" was recognized by Great Britain in a Declaration for regulating provisionally the commercial relations between the two countries, which was signed by the representatives of the British Government and of His Highness Prince Charles of Roumania. See "State Papers," Vol. 67, page 50.

concluded on the $\frac{4}{16}$ th April (**Nos. 485, 486**) to show how much the loyal intentions of the St. Petersburg Cabinet agreed with the proper precautions we took to assure to the country, together with the most scrupulous regards for our material interests, the absolute guarantee of our rights as a nation.

The first stipulations of the Conventions drawn up carry on the face of them the loyally avowed motives of the two Contracting parties, and do not admit of any ambiguity. In effect, if Roumania, when confronted by a situation clearly marked out, and by one if not officially at least tacitly recognised, has thought it her duty to accede to the propositions of the Imperial Russian Government, the Government of the Prince is convinced that it has not only spared Roumania the dangers of a compulsory military occupation, but has assured her the respect of her individuality and of her institutions, and at the same time a formal guarantee of the maintenance of her territorial limits. However uninfluential she may be, Roumania has the right to look after her preservation, when, by reason of her geographical position, she found herself placed, as it were, in the midst of a war which was no longer to be avoided. We trust that we have realised this aim called for by the necessities of Roumania's existence, and we cherish the hope that no one will contest the legality of our action.

In drawing up the Conventions of the $\frac{4}{16}$ th April (**Nos. 485, 486**), we hoped to have removed all uncertainty as to our attitude in the Oriental struggle. The character of these stipulations, and I make bold to say, the moderation which stamps them, should have cleared up all doubt touching the loyalty of our intentions with respect to our relations with Turkey, relations consecrated by the European Treaties which are referred to in our Conventions with Russia.

There was no need, so it seemed to me, for defining our relations with the Sublime Porte by a diplomatic agreement analogous to that of the $\frac{4}{16}$ th April, and which there was a desire that we should equally conclude with Turkey. Chiefly pre-occupied, it may be, with the importance of these relations with the Porte, those who suggested a line of action of such a nature clearly failed to grasp the dangerous consequences it might have had for Roumania. Moreover, rightly more desirous, as we were, for our own safety, and for the maintenance of this neutrality, of which the whole responsibility was thrown on us,

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we could not have reasonably signed a Convention of such a nature, without knowing that we should *ipso facto* transport the seat of war into Roumania.

As it was, under the conditions which we had drawn up with the Imperial Russian Government, we could at least indulge the hope that Roumania would be preserved from the disastrous consequences of a war which we were most anxious to avoid. But is it not clear that by admitting into our territory the armies of the Sultan, we should have inevitably brought upon us all the horrors of war? I refrain from referring here to the excesses which, even before the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Turkey, and without the slightest provocation on our part, have been committed on our territory by the undisciplined vanguard of the Ottoman troops of the littoral of the Danube. It is sufficient to mention such criminal acts as these to show what dangers Roumania would have been exposed if the war had been transferred there.

Fault cannot, then, be found with either our intentions or our forethought, because we have acted as we have. We are, on the other hand, convinced that we have contributed, so far as our means allowed, to the localization of the war, and to its removal from our territory.

After what is written above, it would seem to me superfluous to criticise the somewhat thoughtless tone of certain proposals, according to which the Roumanian troops were bound to co-operate with the Ottoman army against the Russians. Such a proposal as this carries itself its own refutation, all the more so since it was not addressed to us till the very eve of the entry of the Russian armies into Roumania.

Having thus explained our attitude, I do not hesitate to assert here, in the name of the Government of His Serene Highness Prince Charles I, that on all points our intentions have been consistent with our duties. If, on the one hand, we have striven to guarantee ourselves by the Conventions against the perils of a situation surrounded with uncertainty, we had, on the other, no intention whatever to break the ties which bind us to the Ottoman Empire, nor to endeavour to turn the eventualities which might arise to our own profit.

Such were the principles of our line of conduct. From the very beginning we had decided to persevere therein, unless Roumania were challenged by Turkey herself. Except in this

last case, we had no intention whatever to join Russia as a belligerent against the Ottoman Empire. The action of the Roumanian army was naturally defined by the previous declarations which we have made on several occasions to the Sublime Porte and to all the foreign Cabinets.

Unfortunately, the repeated destructive incursions amongst our peaceable people, carried out as they were on an ever-increasing scale, the seizure of more than 200 vessels and of their cargo, seizures effected within our ports, and even up our rivers, such as the Tiu, the Talomitza, and the Olto, the use of petroleum to burn and destroy those of our ships which refused to follow the Turkish monitors, and lastly, the bombardment by these monitors and by the batteries on the right bank of the Danube of our towns and of our villages, which were prepared neither for defence nor attack, and where there was not a single Russian or Roumanian soldier; all these circumstances left us little hope that we should be able to maintain an attitude for which we would not voluntarily have departed at any price. Two facts have since occurred which have entirely destroyed any such hope, and disturbed our political security; in the first place, the insult offered us by the dismissal of our Agent at Constantinople, as if the Diplomatic Agent of Roumania were a Turkish functionary, and did not enjoy the immunities allowed by International Law to Foreign Representatives; and secondly, the despatch which his Excellency Safvet Pasha addressed to the Representatives of Turkey at the Courts of the Guaranteeing Powers on the 2nd of May (**No. 497**).

The unfriendly dispositions manifested towards us by the Sublime Porte in this despatch, the threats which it embodied towards our country and her institutions; threats which were followed by a general bombardment of the whole of our littoral, leave us no longer in any doubt that we are in a state of war with Turkey, and that this war has been declared against us by the Sublime Porte itself.

Confronted by this attitude of the Ottoman Government towards us, and by these acts of open enmity, which by the principles of international law manifestly constitute a state of war, the Roumanian Government fulfils a duty in clearly establishing before the Guaranteeing Powers, and before the public opinion of all Europe, that it is the Sublime Porte itself which has broken the existing ties between Turkey and

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Roumania, and that consequently we cannot but cast back on the Porte the responsibility which it endeavours, in the despatch of 2nd of May, to fix on us.

In consideration of all these facts, the gravity of which cannot escape the notice of the just and enlightened opinion of the British Cabinet, the Government of His Highness Prince Charles I cannot remain a passive spectator. We are obliged at once to take such measures as are needful in the state of affairs brought about by Turkey herself, in order to repel by force the aggressive acts of the Ottoman armies to which Roumania is exposed.

Strong in our right and in the justice of our cause, and trusting in the goodwill of the Guaranteeing Powers towards us, we shall do everything which our duty to the country imposes on us to defend our homes, to protect our institutions, and to guarantee our political existence.

Have the goodness to read to, and leave a copy of this note with, his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I avail, &c.,

COGALNICEANO.

No. 501.—*DESPATCH from the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Russian Ambassador in London, relative to British and Russian Interests in the East. St. Petersburg, $\frac{18}{8}$ th May, 1877.*

TABLE.

Suez Canal.

Egypt.

Constantinople.

Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

Christian Population of Turkey.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

*Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.**

St. Petersburg, $\frac{18}{8}$ th May, 1877.

M. le Comte,

YOUR Excellency has been entrusted by Lord Derby with a letter which develops the views of the English Cabinet as regards the questions which might be implicated in the present war, and would affect Interests that England ought to defend (**No. 499**).

His Majesty the Emperor has perused it with deep interest, and appreciates the frankness of explanations, the object of which is to remove misunderstandings between the two Governments.

Our august master instructs me to respond with complete reciprocity by putting you in a position to develop with equal frankness and equal clearness our own views, both on the points raised by Lord Derby and on those that affect interests which His Imperial Majesty is bound on his side to protect.

Suez Canal.

The Imperial Cabinet will neither blockade, nor interrupt, nor in any way menace the navigation of the Suez Canal. They consider the Canal as an international work, in which the commerce of the world is interested, and which should be kept free from any attack.

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, 8th June, 1877. See also **Nos. 503 and 507.**

[British and Russian Interests in the East.]

Egypt.

Egypt is a part of the Ottoman Empire, and its contingents figure in the Turkish army. Russia might, therefore, consider herself as at war with Egypt. Nevertheless, the Imperial Cabinet does not overlook either the European interests engaged in the country or those of England in particular. They will not bring Egypt within the radius of their military operations.

Constantinople.

As far as concerns Constantinople, without being able to prejudge the course or issue of the war, the Imperial Cabinet repeats that the acquisition of that capital is excluded from the views of His Majesty the Emperor. They recognize that, in any case, the future of Constantinople is a question of common interest, which cannot be settled otherwise than by a general understanding, and that if the possession of that city were to be put in question, it could not be allowed to belong to any of the European Powers.*

Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

As regards the Straits, although their two shores belong to the same Sovereign, they form the only outlet of two great seas in which all the world has interests. It is, therefore, important, in the interests of peace and of the general balance of power, that this question should be settled by a common agreement on equitable and efficiently guaranteed bases.

Persian Gulf.

Lord Derby has alluded to other British Interests which might be affected by the eventual extension of the war, such as the Persian Gulf and the route to India. The Imperial Cabinet declares that it will not extend the war beyond what is required for the loudly and clearly declared object for which His Majesty the Emperor was obliged to take up arms. They will respect the British Interests mentioned by Lord Derby as long as England remains neutral.

* See Memorandum communicated by the Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff on the 13th December, 1877, with reference to this passage (No. 507).

[British and Russian Interests in the East.]

They have a right to expect that the English Government will, on their side, in like manner take into fair consideration the particular interests which Russia has at stake in this war, and in view of which she has imposed such great sacrifices on herself.

Christian Population of Turkey.

These consist in the absolute necessity of putting an end to the deplorable condition of the Christians under Turkish rule and to the chronic state of disturbance provoked by it.

This state of things, and the acts of violence resulting from it, excite in Russia an agitation caused by the Christian feeling so profound in the Russian people, and by the ties of faith and race which unite them to a great part of the Christian population of Turkey. The Imperial Government is the more obliged to take account of this since it reacts both on the internal and external situation of the Empire. At each of these crises the policy of Russia is suspected and accused, and her international relations, her commerce, her finances, and her credit are affected.

His Majesty the Emperor cannot leave Russia indefinitely exposed to these disastrous accidents, which check her peaceful development and cause her incalculable injury.

It is in order to dry up their source that His Imperial Majesty has decided to impose upon his country the burden of the war.

The object cannot be attained unless the Christian populations of Turkey are placed in a position in which their existence and security will be effectually guaranteed against the intolerable abuses of Turkish administration. This interest, which is a vital one for Russia, is not opposed to any of the interests of Europe, which suffers, too, on her side, from the precarious state of the East.

The Imperial Cabinet endeavoured to attain the desired end with the co-operation of the friendly and allied Powers.

Forced now to pursue it alone, our august master is resolved not to lay down his arms without having completely, surely, and effectually guaranteed it.

Be good enough to lay these views before Lord Derby, stating to him that the Imperial Cabinet has a right to hope that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty will appreciate them

[British and Russian Interests in the East.]

with the same spirit of fairness that induces us to respect the interests of England, and that they will draw from them the same conclusion as ourselves, namely, that there is nothing in the views that have been exchanged with reciprocal frankness between the two Governments which cannot be reconciled so as to maintain their amicable relations, and the peace of the East and of Europe.

Receive, &c.,
GORTCHAKOW.

[See also later Documents defining British and Russian Interests in the East. Nos. 503, 507, 510, 511, 512, and 517.]

[Declaration of Independence.]

No. 502.—*ROUMANIAN Declaration of Independence.**Bucharest, ^{22nd May}/_{3rd June}, 1877.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

M. Cogalniceano to M. Callimaki-Catargi.

M. l'Agent,

Bucharest, ^{22nd May}/_{3rd June}, 1877.

THE note which I had the honour of addressing to you on the ^{2nd}/_{14th} May (**No. 500**) will have amply informed you as to the causes which have brought about a complete rupture of our good relations with the Sublime Porte, and which have forced on Roumania a new, but not unforeseen, position.

The incessant and iniquitous aggressions of the Ottoman army along the whole length of our Danubian frontier have only served since then to increase the agitation of public opinion in our country.

Accordingly, the effects of this increasing irritation soon made themselves felt, and on ^{9th}/_{21st} and ^{10th}/_{22nd} May, our Chambers spontaneously adopted a motion tending avowedly and resolutely to establish the independence of Roumania with regard to the Ottoman Porte, and consequently to put an end for the future to that state of restraint which arose from our ill-defined relations with Turkey.

The Government of His Most Serene Highness Prince Charles did not consider itself authorized to repress this movement. The attempt, moreover, would have been at such a time as this both futile and contrary to the sentiment of legitimate indignation which the Sovereign of Roumania fully shares with his subjects.

The absolute independence of Roumania was accordingly proclaimed by every means at the disposition of the country. Both sovereign and people have taken the firm resolution to defend it by force of arms, as they would our territorial integrity, with which our independence will be henceforward identified in the eyes of the whole Roumanian population.

* Communicated to Lord Lyons, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, by M. Callimaki-Catargi, 12th June, 1877. The Turkish Government protested against the Roumanian Declaration of Independence, and of War against Turkey, in a telegraphic despatch from Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha dated 5th June, 1877, which was communicated by Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby on the 8th June. See "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 875.

[Declaration of Independence.]

It would be impossible for me, M. l'Agent, to bring before you more clearly the solemn character of this resolution than by placing again before you (in the copy herewith annexed)* the memorable words spoken by His Serene Highness on the ^{10th}_{22nd} May in reply to congratulations addressed to him by the Chambers.

The deference which we are always ready to show to the Government of the country where you, M. l'Agent, represent our interests, makes it my duty to instruct you to lay before his Lordship the Earl of Derby this document, which has become part of the creed of our national existence.

Moreover, ever since the original Roumanian Principalities have enjoyed the benefits granted them by the powerful protection of the British Government, Roumania has never for a moment doubted that her continued development has been a matter of interest to that Government.

We can entertain no doubt but that this act, to which we have been unfortunately and hurriedly driven by unavoidable circumstances over which we had no control, will at once be favourably considered in London (being as it is the inevitable consequence of England's efficacious protection), even should the official recognition of the same be postponed, in consequence of the actually existing circumstances, to a time which only the progress of events and the goodwill of the Powers can abbreviate.

We fully recognize the necessity for caution which the present exceptional state of affairs imposes on all; and, therefore, in spite of the anxiety—I may even say, of the need—we feel that our new political situation should be sanctioned as soon as possible by an international agreement, our hopes are confined for the present to obtaining from the English Cabinet a mere acquiescence to the line of action which we have followed, under the pressure of very great difficulties, and, as we wish loudly to assert, without being in any way influenced thereto from without.

Above all, we hope, M. l'Agent, to obtain from the goodwill of our protectors the promise that in no case shall pressure be brought to bear on the Roumanian nation with the object of compelling her at any time to renew her connection with the Sublime Porte.

[Declaration of Independence.]

A communication such as this would be a means of circumscribing, within well-marked limits, the actual agitation of our country. Roumania would thus escape from the grievous consequences of a state of uncertainty, which, if prolonged for too long a time, might become a serious evil to her, by destroying that confidence in the future which has hitherto been her guide.

Once assured of the support of the Powers in all that relates to the maintenance and guarantee of her independence, and with a sure knowledge that, at the close of the present war, she would be allowed to make her voice officially heard at the international settlement of her interests, Roumania would devote all her attention to steadfastly maintaining the line of conduct by which she has ever succeeded in gaining the approbation and goodwill of the guaranteeing Courts.

She will be able to pursue this course, which has ever been so salutary for her, with far greater facility when she feels herself entirely freed from the ill-cemented ties that bound her to Turkey.

We would also express a hope that his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs may be disposed to recognize that, were greater value attached to the act just executed by Roumania, it would have no other result than that of assuring for the future peace and prosperity to a country which would become one of the most useful members of Eastern Europe.

Our past conduct must have already reassured all the Guaranteeing Powers as to the object we have in view. Our future conduct will convince all, and especially our powerful neighbours, that our policy is a conservative one.

If we to-day separate ourselves from Turkey, it is to avoid the risk of having to submit to the obstacles which she has never ceased to put in the way of our natural development.

The Government of His Serene Highness Prince Charles is firmly convinced that in allowing and joining in the Declaration of Independence, pronounced in so decided a manner by the Roumanian Chambers, it has acted not only in the real interest of the nation, but has at the same time prepared a new and common basis of understanding and agreement for the guaranteeing Powers in the future.

If the Government, as it has already reason for supposing, has not fallen into error, it is now entitled and bound to hope,

[Declaration of Independence.]

to solicit and to expect, a complete approbation of its conduct, or at least a provisional concurrence, which would strengthen it in the salutary course on which it thought it right to enter.

It remains for you, M. l'Agent, to read and give a copy of this note to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and at the same time to assure him of the deep gratitude with which the Roumanian Government would receive from the London Cabinet a new proof of their goodwill given this time at least in the form of a promise reassuring us of the political future of Roumania.

I have, &c.,

COGALNICEANO.

Speech of Prince Charles of Roumania, ^{10th}_{22nd} May, 1877.

[Referred to in above Despatch.]

(Translation.)

You recall to me the words which I uttered eleven years ago, when I for the first time entered the National Assembly. These words are very dear to me; they have been the guide of my reign during the number of years which we have spent together.

I do not regret to-day, any more than I did on the 10th of May, 1866, that I have left my family and have gone far from my native land. No, this is no cause for regret, for in Roumania I have found my fatherland; in the Roumanian nations I have found my family.

On the contrary, now that I have learnt to know the fairness of this country, and the destiny to which it has every right to aspire, now that I am able to estimate at their proper value the noble qualities which distinguish the Rouman people, it is with a real pleasure that I recall the day when I was elected Prince,—the day when I first came amongst the Roumans, the day when you confided to me a Throne rendered illustrious by so many great Princes, by such glorious defenders of the national independence, and of the Cross against the Crescent. One solitary cloud yet darkened the years that are past,—one only humiliation still remained for the Roumanians and their Prince,—I would refer to the ill-defined and unfounded ties

[Declaration of Independence.]

which were known at Constantinople as suzerainty, at Bucharest as vassalage.

It has ever been the constant aim of two generations of Roumanians, especially so from 1857 to the present time, to do away with these ties, which are equally repugnant to our position, our interests, and even our rights *ab antiquo*, and to replace them by the relations which, in this 19th century, are the bonds of union between free States and nations; and I am justified in asserting that my election, my arrival on receiving your summons, from the sources to the mouths of this great Danube, and, in a word, my mission here since the very beginning of my reign, have had no other object but to free Roumania from these ties.

These very ties the Sublime Porte has broken herself by a series of acts which we have neither desired nor provoked. We shall never consent to their re-establishment. Is it not you—is it not you in your representative character as a Parliament—is it not the whole nation, which has asserted and proclaimed that, by breaking these ties, Roumania regains her ancient independence as a free people, as a State endowed with a distinct individuality, as a useful, peaceful, and civilizing member of the great family of European States?

The moment has now come for the energy and devotion of the children of the soil, for the prudent policy of the Parliament, for myself also—if you will allow me to say so—for my zeal, activity, and unwearied constancy, to pursue and obtain a European sanction for the new political situation of Roumania.

The goodwill and high consideration with which the great Powers and the most august Sovereigns welcome all our efforts, all our acts, to recreate a national existence, give us reason to hope—nay, I should say make us quite confident, that Roumania will not lack their powerful co-operation in these days of trial, seeing that she asks only for what is due to her as a people worthy of freedom, as a country that has not deceived the expectations which Europe had formed of her, as a State which has the material and moral strength necessary to fulfil the mission imposed on her by her geographical position. With this hope, with this conviction, with this determination, the complete independence of Roumania, far from having a disturbing influence on the peace of Europe and the tranquillity of the neighbouring nations, will, I am convinced, result not only in

[Declaration of Independence.]

satisfying our national wants, but also in promoting a great European interest.

Once more I thank you for the words you have addressed to me on this memorable day.

The Princess joins her thanks to mine, and with one voice we breathe the wish: Long live the Representatives of Roumania, and, above all, long live Roumania!



No. 503.—*MEMORANDUM of a Confidential Communication made by Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby respecting British and Russian Interests in the East. London, 8th June, 1877.*

TABLE.

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Compensation to *Roumania*. Part of the *Dobrudscha*.

Compensation to *Austria-Hungary*. *Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

HIS Majesty the Emperor attaches the greatest importance to the maintenance of good relations between the two countries. He will make every effort to that end, but the English Cabinet, on their side, must do the same.

Suez Canal.

There is nothing to add to Prince Gortchakow's letter with regard to the Suez Canal and Egypt (**No. 501**). Russia will not touch upon these two points.

*Constantinople.**

With regard to Constantinople our assurances can only refer to taking possession of the Town, or occupying it permanently. It would be singular and without precedent if, at the outset of a war, one of the belligerents undertook beforehand not to pursue

* See Memorandum communicated by the Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff, 13th December, 1877 (**No. 507**).

[British and Russian Interests. Russian Assurances.]

its military operations up to the walls of the capital. It is not impossible that the obstinacy of the Turks, especially if they know themselves to be guaranteed against such an eventuality, may prolong the war instead of bringing it to a speedy termination.

When once the English Ministry is fully assured that we shall under no circumstances remain at Constantinople, it will depend upon England and the other Powers to relieve us of the necessity of even approaching the town. It will be sufficient for them to use their influence with the Turks, with a view to making peace possible before this extreme step is taken. On our side we shall willingly fall into this view.

Dardanelles and Bosphorus.

With regard to the Straits, the arrangements by virtue of which the Black Sea, which is closed in time of peace, is opened in time of war to all fleets hostile to Russia, were conceived in a spirit of distrust and enmity towards her (**Nos. 193, 265, 439**). It is a question which can only be resettled by a general agreement, in such a manner as to guarantee the Black Sea against the consequences of the abnormal and exceptional position of the Straits. Would it be possible for Russia, at the outset of a war which may end fortunately for her, to undertake not to make Europe appreciate the necessity of a resettlement of a state of things which was established to her prejudice.

Persian Gulf.

England appears to fear lest the spreading or consequences of the war should lead us to threaten Bussorah and the Persian Gulf.

British Possessions in India.

It is not at all to our interest to trouble England in her Indian Possessions, or, consequently, in her communications with them. The war which is actually going on does not demand it, for its object is clearly defined, and matters would be complicated rather than simplified by so vast an extension of the struggle.

Count Schouvaloff is authorized to give the most categorical assurances on this subject; but, this being the case, Russia has a right on her part to expect that England will take no hostile action against her.

Necessity for arriving at an Understanding.

What must be arrived at is the essential object of the war: this is the most important point of all. If an understanding could be come to on this point, if the object to be attained were well defined, and the field of operations clearly marked out, all accessory questions would arrange themselves, and the issue would be arrived at the more easily, because it would meet with the concurrence and good-will of all the Powers instead of with obstacles which delay and complicate it.

It is to this point that Count Schouvaloff invites Lord Derby's attention, whilst stating as clearly and practically as possible the views of the Imperial Cabinet on the subject.

Necessity for coercing Turkey. Condition of Christians.

What is absolutely necessary to Russia is that she should put an end to the continual crises in the East, firstly, by establishing the superiority of her arms so thoroughly that in future the Turks will not be tempted to defy her lightly; and, secondly, by placing the Christians, especially those of Bulgaria, in a position which would effectually guarantee them against the abuses of Turkish administration.

Maintenance of Ottoman Empire. Inviolability of Constantinople and the Straits.

What is necessary to England is the maintenance in principle of the Ottoman Empire and the inviolability of Constantinople and the Straits.

These views are not irreconcilable.

When once we have engaged in the war we cannot admit of any restrictions on our eventual operations. They remain entirely subordinate to the military requirements, but the consequences of this war can be confined beforehand within certain limits agreed upon.

Russian Assurances. Conditional Terms of Peace.

We could give at the present moment the assurance that if the neutrality of the Powers is maintained and the Porte sues for peace before our armies have crossed the Balkans, the Emperor would agree not to pass that line.

In this case peace might be concluded on the following terms :—

Bulgaria.

Bulgaria up to the Balkans to be made an autonomous vassal province under the guarantee of Europe.

The Turkish troops and officials to be removed from it, and the fortresses disarmed and razed.

Self-government to be established in it with the support of a national militia, to be organized as soon as possible.

The Powers to agree to assure to that part of Bulgaria which is to the south of the Balkans, as well as to the other Christian provinces of Turkey, the best possible guarantees for a regular administration.

Montenegro and Servia.

Montenegro and Servia to receive an increase of territory, to be determined by common agreement.

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina to be provided with such institutions as may by common consent be judged compatible with their internal state, and calculated to guarantee them a good indigenous administration.

These provinces being situated conterminously with Austria-Hungary gives the latter a right to a preponderating voice in their future organization.

Servia.

Servia, like Bulgaria, to remain under the suzerainty of the Sultan; the relations of the suzerain and the vassals to be defined in a manner to prevent disputes.

Roumania.

As regards Roumania, which has just proclaimed its independence (**No. 502**), the Emperor is of opinion that this is a question which cannot be settled except by a general understanding.

If these conditions are accepted, the different Cabinets would be able to exercise a collective pressure on the Porte, warning it that if it refused it would be left to take the consequences of the war.

Compensation to Russia for Costs of War.

If the Porte sues for peace and accepts the terms enumerated

above before our armies have crossed the line of the Balkans, Russia would agree to make peace, but reserves to herself the right of stipulating for certain special advantages as compensation for the costs of the war :—

Bessarabia. Batoum.

These advantages would not exceed the portion of Bessarabia ceded in 1856 (**No. 264**), as far as the northern branch of the Danube (that is to say, the Delta formed by the mouths of that river remains excluded), and the cession of Batoum, with adjacent territory.

Compensation to Roumania : Part of the Dobrudscha.

In this case, Roumania could be compensated by a common agreement, either by the proclamation of its independence, or, if it remained a vassal state, by a portion of the Dobrudscha.

Compensation to Austria-Hungary : Bosnia and Herzegovina.

If Austria-Hungary on her side demanded compensation, either for the extension acquired by Russia, or as a security against the new arrangements above mentioned for the benefit of the Christian Principalities in the Balkan Peninsula, Russia would not oppose her seeking such compensation in Bosnia and partly in the Herzegovina.

Such are the bases to which his Majesty the Emperor would give his consent with a view of establishing an understanding with England and with Europe, and of arriving at a speedy peace.

Count Schouvaloff is authorized to sound Lord Derby ("pressentir l'opinion") on the subject of these conditions of peace, without concealing from him the value which the Imperial Cabinet attaches to a good understanding with the Cabinet of London.

To resume, if the Porte sues for peace, and accepts the above terms before the Russian armies have crossed the Balkans, the Emperor would consent not to press the operations of war any further.

If the Turkish Government refuses, Russia would be obliged to pursue the war until the Porte was obliged to agree to peace. In this case the terms of the Imperial Cabinet might be altered.

In thus indicating with perfect openness, the object which

[British and Russian Interests? Russian Assurances.]

the Emperor has in view, and which he will not exceed so long as the war is confined to this side of the Balkans, His Majesty offers a means of localizing the war, and preventing the dissolution of the Turkish Empire ; but it is important for the Emperor to know if, within the limits indicated, he can count upon the neutrality of England, a neutrality which would exclude even a temporary occupation of Constantinople and the Straits by the latter Power.

Lord Derby said that Count Schouvaloff could not expect to receive from him an answer to proposals so important as the above, and that he would confer on the subject with his colleagues.

[See also later Documents defining British and Russian Interests in the East. Nos. 507, 510, 511, 512, and 517.]

No. 504.—*PROCLAMATION of the Emperor of Russia to the Bulgarians, on the passage of Russian Troops across the Danube. Constantinople, 28th June, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

My troops, having crossed the Danube, enter to-day upon your territory, upon which they have already several times fought for the amelioration of the condition of the Christian inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula. Faithful to their ancient and historical traditions, ever gathering fresh strength from the intimate union which had for centuries united them to the Orthodox population, my ancestors succeeded by their influence and their arms in successfully securing the position of the Servians and of the Roumanians by summoning them to a new political existence. Time and circumstances have not altered the sympathies of Russia for her coreligionists in the East. She nourishes ever the same affection, the same solicitude towards all the members of the great Christian family of the Balkan Peninsula. I have confided to my army, commanded by my brother, the Grand Duke Nicholas, the mission of securing the sacred rights of your nationality, which constitutes the immutable condition of the peaceful and regular development of all civil existence. You have not acquired these rights by force or armed resistance, but at the cost of centuries of suffering, at the cost of the blood of martyrs with which for centuries you and your ancestors have soaked the soil of your country.

Inhabitants of Bulgaria! The aim of Russia is to build up, not to destroy. She is called by the decrees of Providence to pacify and to conciliate all races and all denominations in the Bulgarian territory which is inhabited by people of various origin and belief. Henceforward the arms of Russia will protect every Christian against violence of all kind; no attack will be made by any one with impunity upon his person or upon his property; every crime will be followed by punishment; the life, liberty, honour, and property of every Christian will be equally guaranteed, to whatever sect he may belong. It is not vengeance

[Russian Address to Bulgarians.]

which will direct our actions, but rather a sentiment of strict equity will alone preside over them, as well as a firm intention of developing order and right in regions where disorder and despotism are now rampant.

And to you, Mussulmans of Bulgaria, I address a salutary warning. It is painful for me to evoke the memory of the crimes and violence of which many of you have been guilty towards defenceless Christians. Those horrors cannot be forgotten, but the Russian authorities do not wish to hold all responsible for the crimes of a few. A regular and impartial administration of justice will overtake only the criminals who have remained unpunished, although their names were perfectly well known to your Government. Acknowledge to-day the justice of God which overtakes you, bend before His will, submit yourselves to the lawful demands of the authorities who will be appointed whenever my troops may appear, become peaceful citizens of a society which is ready to accord to you the benefits of a regular organization. Your religion will remain to you intact, your existence, your property, the life and property of your families, will be held sacred by us.

Christians of Bulgaria! You are passing through a memorable period. The hour of deliverance from Mussulman despotism has at length struck. Give the world an illustration of Christian love; forget former internal dissensions, and respect scrupulously the legitimate rights of each nationality; unite yourselves, as brothers in religion, in a sentiment of concord and brotherly love, which alone offers foundations for a solid and lasting edifice; gather closely under the shadow of the Russian flag, whose victories have so often resounded upon the Danube and among the Balkans. As the Russian troops advance into the interior of the country, the Turkish rule will be replaced by a regular organization, the native inhabitants will be at once summoned to take an active part therein under the supreme direction of special and newly-appointed authorities. The legions of Bulgaria will act as the nucleus of a local armed force destined to maintain order and security. The zeal which you will have exhibited in honestly serving your country, the impartiality which you will have brought towards the accomplishment of this great duty, will prove to the world that you are worthy of the position which Russia has for so many years and at the cost of such great sacrifices prepared for you. Obey the Russian

28 June, 1877.]

RUSSIA.

[No. 504

[Russian Address to Bulgarians.]

authorities. Follow their directions faithfully. Therein lies your strength and your safety.

With humility I beseech the Lord to grant us the victory over the enemy of the Christians, and to send down his blessing upon our just cause.

ALEXANDER.

No. 505.—*TURKISH APPEAL to Mussulmans to fight in the Holy War against Russia. 30th June, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

EVERYONE knows how the Russians have made war on us unjustly and without cause, and have invaded our country. They burn and devastate all the places that they find defenceless. They kill and put to the sword our co-religionists and our other fellow-countrymen, who are faithful subjects of the Padisha. They treat women and children in the most cruel and vexatious way, and subject them to the most shameful outrages, such as the most barbarous and treacherous of nations would disown.

Under these circumstances, all Mussulmans have thought it their duty to declare the Holy War for the protection of the country and the nation.

In consequence, the Imperial Government hastened, in order to deliver the people from the horrors of invasion, to dispatch against this treacherous foe all the soldiers of the active army, as well as the Redifs and the Mustafiz, who are to-day engaged with the enemy.

Nevertheless, considering the imminence of the danger that threatens the Empire, the fatherland, and the nation, this duty does not fall exclusively on the aforementioned troops, but equally on all Mussulmans able to bear arms and to join the war. This is the reason why the Khalifat and the Sultanat, in accordance with the "Cher'i," has appealed to all zealous Mussulmans.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that this appeal has been enthusiastically answered, and that everywhere bodies of volunteers, cavalry and infantry, have been formed, who, having received horses and clothes from the people and arms from the Government, are to-day confronting the enemy.

It has, however, been shown that among these volunteers there were men without honour or zeal, who, not valuing aright the holy mission entrusted to them, took shamelessly to flight. Some deserted their ranks on the line of march, others fled soon after their arrival at the seat of war.

To fly when one is commanded by the law of the "Cher'i" to fight for the sacred cause; when one has received for this

[War with Russia.]

purpose horses, clothes, and arms ; when, in fine, the women even send all kinds of aid to our brothers who are facing the foe ; to fly under such circumstances is to merit, according to the law, the severest punishments.

But this crime being imputed to their ignorance, it has been decided, with a view of preserving them from the penalties of the law, to seek and seize these deserters wherever they may be, and to incorporate them into the ranks of the active army, where they will have to serve for four consecutive years. Those who shall be taken in the neighbourhood of Constantinople will be sent to that city, and the rest to the nearest military post.

This decision having been sanctioned by Imperial Iradé, has been communicated to all the Vilayets and Mutessarifats, in order that it may be put into execution. It is with this object that it is published in the Constantinople newspapers.



[Neutral Trade during War between Russia and Turkey.]

No. 506.—*DESPATCH from the Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus, respecting Neutral Trade in Contraband of War during the War between Russia and Turkey. London, 11th July, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador has spoken to me on the subject of the Regulations issued by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the maintenance and observance of the Neutrality of this country in maritime questions during the war between Russia and Turkey.*

His Excellency inquired how far the Government would be disposed to extend this neutrality in regard to Commerce and to the exportation from British ports, either by British subjects or foreigners, of the articles generally known as Contraband of War, and he asked what was the legislation in force in this country respecting such matters.

I have informed Count Schouvaloff, in reply, that the practice of Great Britain as a Neutral State with respect to articles which may be deemed to be Contraband of War is governed by the general law of nations. Her Majesty's Government have always maintained that, by the law of nations, the neutral shipper of goods which may be deemed to be contraband of war commits no offence against his own Sovereign, and that a neutral State is not bound to restrain or punish its subjects who seek to carry such goods across the seas to a belligerent, the only penalty for so doing being the seizure and condemnation of the goods if intercepted by the enemy during the transport.

The powers vested in the Executive by the Foreign Enlistment Act, passed in 1870† after much careful consideration, were, I said, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, amply sufficient for the enforcement of all the duties and obligations of Neutrality which the law of nations can require.

The existence of war inflicts sufficiently onerous burdens on neutral commerce, and Her Majesty's Government had no intention of adding to them by the imposition of restrictions on the trade of this country in excess of the recognized practice of neutral States.

I am, &c.,

DERBY.

* 30th April, 1877; see "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 857.

† See "State Papers," Vol. 60, page 278.

No. 507.—*MEMORANDUM communicated by the Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff, respecting the non-occupation of Constantinople or the Dardanelles by Russian Forces. London, 13th December, 1877.**

At the outbreak of the present War those of its possible results which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, would most directly affect British interests, were enumerated in a note addressed to Count Schouvaloff on the 6th May last (No. 499).

Amongst these it was stated that Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to witness with indifference the passing of Constantinople into other hands than those of its present possessors.

The reply of the Russian Government, conveyed in Prince Gortchakow's despatch of $\frac{1}{3}$ ²⁸th May (No. 501), contained the following assurances on this point:—

“ Pour ci que concerne Constantinople, sans pouvoir préjuger le marche ni l'issue de la guerre, le Cabinet Impérial répète qu'une acquisition de cette capitale est exclue des vues de Sa Majesté l'Empereur. Il reconnaît qu'en tous cas le sort de Constantinople est une question d'intérêt commun, qui ne peut être réglée que par une entente générale, et que si la possession de cette ville devait être mise en question, elle ne saurait appartenir à aucune des Puissances de l'Europe.”†

While appreciating the courtesy and friendly character of this answer, Her Majesty's Government feel that it does not sufficiently meet the dangers against which they desire to guard. They are strongly of opinion—and an opinion which the course of events tends still more to confirm—that the occupation of Constantinople by the Russian forces, even though it should be of a temporary character and for military purposes only, would be an event which it would, on all accounts, be most desirable to avoid.

They cannot conceal from themselves that if such an occupation appeared imminent, public feeling in this country, founded

* See Reply (No. 510).

† For Translation, see page 2625.

[British Interests; Constantinople, Dardanelles.]

on a just appreciation of the consequences to be apprehended, might call for measures of precaution on the part of Great Britain from which they have hitherto felt justified in abstaining.

It is with the view of avoiding what might endanger seriously the good relations happily maintained between the two countries, that Lord Derby has been charged by the Cabinet to express to the Russian Government their earnest hope that, should the Russian Government advance to the south of the Balkans, no attempt will be made to occupy Constantinople or the Dardanelles.

In the contrary event Her Majesty's Government must hold themselves free to take whatever course may appear to them necessary for the protection of British interests; but they sincerely trust and confidently believe that any such necessity will be averted by mutual understanding between the two Governments.

In making this communication they think it right to add that they will be willing, as they have been from the first, to avail themselves of any suitable occasion that may present itself for assisting in the work of mediation and in the restoration of peace.

DERBY.

[For Russian Reply to this communication, see No. 510.]

No. 508.—*MANIFESTO of the Prince of Servia, proclaiming a renewal of the War with Turkey. Belgrade, $\frac{1st}{13th}$ December, 1877.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

To my beloved People,

IN my Proclamation of $\frac{21st\ February}{5th\ March}$ of this year (**No. 482**), I announced to my beloved people that the defence of the holy cause, for which we were last year obliged to draw the sword, had passed into more powerful hands. But since the time that Servia concluded peace with the Ottoman Porte (**No. 480**), the Turkish race has enriched its history with new unheard-of horrors. Rapine, waste, and slaughter to-day fill all the provinces of the Turkish Empire, but more especially do the Turks vent their wrath on all who bear the Servian name. The Mussulman fanaticism, inflamed with vengeance, vents itself especially on those suffering brethren of ours who at the time of the war found refuge and protection in Servia, although by Article II of the Treaty we concluded on $\frac{1}{2}8th$ February (**No. 480**), with the Ottoman Porte a complete amnesty is stipulated for them. Relying on the good faith of the International Convention, we induced the greater part of the martyrs to return to their hearths; but having returned with confidence in our advice they were, alas! under various pretexts, subjected anew to tortures and violence by their Mahommedan oppressors. In vain were the steps my Government took at Constantinople against this flagrant infraction of the Treaty. The Ottoman Porte left the fresh acts of violence unpunished, and trampled on the solemn promise it had made us.

Servians! after such a breach of the Treaty which the Porte concluded with us we are no longer obliged to remain in the trying condition which changed us from champions of freedom to patient spectators of those ruthless endeavours by which the Porte is evidently bent on extirpating the Servian race. The measure of the Turkish atrocities is such that Servia will now

* On the 19th December, 1877, a Note was addressed by Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha, denying the assertions made in the Servian Declaration of War (see "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 886).

[War with Turkey.]

no longer remain a quiet looker-on, neither can she, without abasement, remain any longer bound to a Power which derives its might from devastation, fire, and blood, and which, in the fury of its fanaticism, already threatens our Principality.

Although Servia has preserved a most correct attitude towards Turkey, the Ottoman Porte again begins to prepare new dangers for our country. Besides secret conspiracies which it fosters against our internal security, the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs openly threatens us, saying that the Porte has innumerable ways of harming Servia, although she may not be *pro formâ* at war with us.

Servians! since the Porte assumes such a threatening tone towards us at the moment when it is hard pressed by the army of one of the most powerful States, it is evident that we must not let the present opportunity pass without trying once and for all to insure our future. No; the struggle with our hereditary foe was not concluded with last year's campaign. It would neither be glorious nor profitable for us were we to occupy ourselves with the works of peace instead of endeavouring so far as lies within our power, to remove the dangers which beset the Servian race and to fulfil our national task.

And although the brave Russian army needs not our assistance to crown with success the holy cause which the Emperor Alexander has taken under his mighty protection, nothing in the world can free us from the duty which the Servian nation has to fulfil as a member of the community of Eastern Christian nations, which Servia must fulfil towards herself and her race.

Nations cannot attain true freedom until they have purchased it by their own exertions, and, if necessary, by their blood. Great deeds like that undertaken last year by us are not begun in order to stop half-way. That were indeed a pusillanimous policy and a lukewarm patriotism, for which posterity would blame us, for which our suffering brethren would execrate us, and of which we ourselves should hereafter repent.

The blessed spirits of our heroes who fell in last year's war would renounce us when they saw from above that we were indifferent whilst rivers of blood were shed on our frontier, that we undertook nothing to fulfil their legacy of fighting the enemy who devastated our beautiful and fertile land when the exigencies of war did not demand it.

Only by steadfastness and perseverance can we reap the fruits

[War with Turkey.]

of the noble and courageous attempt which cost us such extraordinary efforts and enormous sacrifices. We have had time given us to rest until now, and we were entitled to take it. If the enemy could bring superior forces last year against the Servian Principality, to-day, taking the field, we find there a Russian army crowned with glory, we find there our heroic Montenegrin brethren, and our valiant Roumanian neighbours, who have crossed the Danube, and fight gallantly for their independence and the liberty of the oppressed Christians.

Servians! we take up arms to-day in a holy, national, and Christian cause. After the example of my grandfather, behold I place myself again at the head of the armed Servian nation. On the banner which Obrenovits IV unfurls again are written, "Liberty and National Independence." Under this banner you have already given splendid proofs of your patriotism and self-devotion.

We now take a bold step; let us join hands with those of our brethren from whom we have been separated since the day of Kossovo.

To-day or never has struck the hour in which we must, once and for all, complete the great national task which the heroes of Takova so gloriously began, and which we last year recommenced.

And so, heroes, forward, beside the victorious banners of the Czar liberator, with faith in God Almighty, the Protector of Right, for the liberation of our oppressed brethren and for the independence of our country Servia!

Forward, heroes; it is the will of God.

MILAN M. OBRENOVITS IV, c.p.,

Prince of Servia.

Belgrade, 13th December, 1877.

No. 509.—*DESPATCH from the Servian Diplomatic Agent at Constantinople to the Sublime Porte, announcing his withdrawal from Constantinople, and the existence of a State of War between Servia and Turkey. $\frac{2nd}{14th}$ December, 1877.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

M. Christich to Server Pasha.

THE Undersigned, Diplomatic Agent of the Principality of Servia at the Sublime Porte, has the honour to bring the following to the knowledge of his Excellency Server Pasha.

The Protocol of Peace of the 16th ($\frac{1}{2}\frac{6}{8}$ th) February this year (No. 480) having stipulated for a full and complete amnesty to all those who had been compromised in the preceding events, the Servian Government sent back to their homes a large number of unfortunate Ottoman subjects who had taken refuge on Servian territory. But in spite of the provisions of the said Protocol, these refugees, on their return, were continually exposed to fresh persecutions and ill-treatment of all kinds, both from their Mussulman fellow-citizens, and from the Imperial authorities themselves. His Excellency Server Pasha doubtless remembers the frequent protests which the Undersigned, by order of his Government, has addressed to the Sublime Porte against these manifest breaches of the Convention of Peace. The Undersigned, however, much regrets to state that his representations have produced no satisfactory result.

Moreover, the Government of the Prince is convinced that the Sublime Porte, contrary to international law, and neglecting altogether the rules which should govern the relations of neighbouring States, has been trying for some time past to compromise the internal order and tranquillity of the Principality by supporting openly the machinations of foreign conspirators who wish to trouble the security of the Principality and has supplied them with arms and other means of action.

* On the 19th December, 1877, a Note was addressed by Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha, denying the assertions made in the Servian Declaration of War (see "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 886).

14 Dec., 1877.]

TURKEY AND SERVIA.

[No. 509

[War with Turkey.]

For the above reasons the Government of the Prince has felt compelled to recall their Agent at the Sublime Porte, and has ordered him to leave Constantinople immediately, the Principality of Servia considering itself henceforth to be in a state of war with the Sublime Porte.

The Undersigned, &c.

CHRISTICH.

Constantinople, $\frac{2}{14}$ th December, 1877.

[British Interests; Constantinople.]

No. 510.—*DESPATCH from Prince Gortschakow to Count Schouvaloff, in reply to the British Memorandum respecting the possible occupation of Constantinople by Russian Troops. St. Petersburg, 16th December, 1877.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

LORD DERBY has been good enough to communicate to your Excellency a Memorandum (**No. 507**) in which he expresses the opinion that an occupation of Constantinople by the Russian troops, even of a temporary character and solely from military considerations, might lead public feeling in England, based on a just appreciation of the consequences to be apprehended, to call for measures of precaution from which Her Majesty's Government have, up to the present, thought themselves justified in abstaining. They must, in that case, consider themselves free to adopt any line of conduct which might appear to them necessary for the protection of British interests; but they sincerely expect and confidently hope that any such necessity will be averted by an understanding between the two Governments.

I transmit to your Excellency a Memorandum in answer to this communication. Be good enough to lay it before Lord Derby.

Our august master is always disposed to lend himself to every understanding destined to maintain good relations between the two countries.

It is with this view that we think it our duty to point out to Lord Derby that anticipations such as he expresses, if they are known at Constantinople, are precisely of a nature to render inevitable the eventualities which it is the object of the Principal Secretary of State of Her Britannic Majesty to guard against. If the Turks were to acquire the conviction that a menace or an attack directed against Constantinople would cause England to depart from her neutrality, their policy would naturally be to prolong their resistance, in spite of its evident uselessness, in such a way as to force Russia to pursue her operations as far as the capital. It would be different, in all probability, if the attitude and language of the Cabinet of London

* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, 2nd January, 1878.

[British Interests; Constantinople.]

were such as thoroughly to convince the Porte that it has no assistance to hope for from abroad.

In such a case the Porte would resign itself more promptly to abandon a resistance which can only aggravate its position.

Memorandum.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

THE views of the Imperial Cabinet, as to the ultimate consequences of the war in which England is specially interested, have undergone no change.

An acquisition of Constantinople is not now comprised any more than before the war in the intentions of His Majesty the Emperor. His Imperial Majesty continues to regard the destiny of that capital as a common interest which can only be regulated by a general understanding. His Imperial Majesty holds equally to the opinion that, if the question of the possession of Constantinople should arise, it must not belong to any of the Great Powers of Europe.

At the same time His Majesty the Emperor considers that it is his right and his duty to oblige Turkey to conclude a solid and real peace, which shall offer effectual guarantees against the return of the incessant crises which disturb the peace of Russia and that of Europe.

These crises can only cease with the state of things which gives rise to them.

The whole of Europe has recognized the impossibility of allowing them to continue.

It is with the view of finally putting a stop to them that His Majesty the Emperor has taken up arms and exposed his people to heavy sacrifices.

These sacrifices, borne with devotion, render it all the more the duty of His Majesty not to stop before having achieved a result which shall preserve Russia from the renewal of similar trials, which shall satisfy her Christian feelings, guarantee her repose, and at the same time consolidate the peace of Europe.

This end must be attained. If the obstinacy or the illusions of the Porte should oblige His Majesty to pursue his military operations, in order to dictate a peace responding to the openly

[British Interests ; Constantinople.]

proclaimed object of the war, His Imperial Majesty has always reserved to himself, and still continues to claim in regard to this point, the full liberty of action which is the right of every belligerent.

But after the formal assurances which he has frequently given and which he now repeats, His Majesty is at a loss to understand in what respect British interests, such as they have been defined by the communications made by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, could be injured by the course which His Majesty is pursuing and must pursue till the object of the war be attained.

The Imperial Cabinet, appreciating the friendly intentions which have prompted the communication of Lord Derby to Count Schouvaloff, and animated by the same desire to maintain the good relations between the two countries, believes that it cannot better respond to them than by requesting Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State to have the goodness to define more clearly what are the British interests which he considers might be touched by the eventualities of the war within the limits to which the assurances of the Imperial Cabinet have restricted them, with a view to seeking in common the means of reconciling those interests with those of Russia, which it is the duty of His Majesty the Emperor to protect.

[See also Nos. 511, 512, and 517.]

No. 511.—*MEMORANDUM sent by Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow, respecting the Non-occupation of Gallipoli by Russian Troops. St. Petersburg, 13th January, 1878.**

WITH reference to the inquiry contained in the last paragraph of Prince Gortchakow's Memorandum of the 16th December (**No. 510**), Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that any operations tending to place the passage of the Dardanelles under the control of Russia would be an impediment to the proper consideration of the terms of a final settlement.

Her Majesty's Ambassador is consequently instructed to ask Prince Gortchakow whether he is willing to give assurances to Her Majesty's Government that no Russian forces shall be sent to the Peninsula of Gallipoli.

St. Petersburg, ^{1st}/_{13th} January, 1878.

[For Reply, see **No. 512.**]

No. 512.—*MEMORANDUM sent by Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus, respecting the Non-occupation of Gallipoli by British or Russian Troops. St. Petersburg, ^{3rd}/_{15th} January, 1878.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament).

THE Imperial Cabinet has no intention of directing military operations upon Gallipoli, unless the Turkish regular troops should be concentrated there.

They suppose on their part, that in addressing to them this question, Her Britannic Majesty's Government have no intention of occupying that peninsula, a step which would not be in accordance with their neutrality, and might give rise in Constantinople to illusions which would not favour the conclusion of peace.

* See also **No. 517.**

[Invalidity of any Separate Treaty between Russia and Turkey.]

No. 513.—*MEMORANDUM handed by the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg to Prince Gortchakow, as to the Invalidity of any Separate Treaty which might be concluded between Russia and Turkey. St. Petersburg, 15th January, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador has been instructed to state to Prince Gortchakow that in order to avoid possible misconception, and in view of reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government, they are of opinion that any Treaty concluded between the Governments of Russia and the Porte, affecting Treaties of 1856 (**No. 264**) and 1871 (**No. 439**), must be an European Treaty, and would not be valid without the assent of the Powers who were Parties to those Treaties.

[A Preliminary Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey was signed at San Stefano on the 3rd March, 1878 (**No. 518**). On the 7th of the same month a proposal was made by the Austro-Hungarian Government for the meeting of a Congress at Berlin, at which the Prime Ministers of the Great Powers should take part (**No. 519**). This proposal having been accepted, a formal Invitation was sent, on the 3rd June, 1878, by the German Government to the Powers Parties to the Treaties of 1856 (**No. 264**) and 1871 (**No. 439**), to meet in Congress at Berlin to discuss the Preliminary Treaty of Peace which had been signed between Russia and Turkey at San Stefano, on the 3rd March preceding. This Invitation having been accepted, a Congress was held at Berlin from the 13th June till the 13th July, 1878 (**No. 528**), at which latter date a Treaty was signed between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for the Settlement of the Affairs in the East (**No. 530**). See also Note, page 2668.]

No. 514.—*PRELIMINARY BASES of Peace between Russia, &c., and Turkey. Signed at Adrianople, 31st January, 1878.**

ART.

TABLE.

Preamble.

1. *Bulgaria* to form an Autonomous Tributary Principality, with a National Christian Government and Native Militia.
2. Independence of *Montenegro*. Increase of Territory. Frontier to be fixed hereafter.
3. Independence of *Roumania* and *Servia*. Territorial Indemnity to *Roumania*. Rectification of Frontier of *Servia*.
4. Autonomous Administration of *Bosnia* and *Herzegovina*. Reforms in *Christian Provinces*.
5. Indemnity to *Russia*. Rights of *Russia* in the *Straits of the Bosphorus* and *Dardanelles*. Negotiations of Preliminaries of Peace. Suspension of Hostilities on Signature of Bases of Peace, including *Roumania*, *Servia*, and *Montenegro*. *Turkish* Evacuation of Fortresses in *Turkey* in *Europe* and *Asia*.

(Translation.)

WITH a view to the conclusion of an Armistice† between the belligerent armies of Russia and Turkey, their Excellencies Server Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte, and Namyk Pasha, Minister of the Civil List of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, proceeded to the head-quarters of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Nicolas, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army, with full powers from the Sublime Porte; and the bases proposed by his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke, in the name of the Emperor of Russia, having been accepted by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries, have been settled by common consent in the following terms:—

Bulgaria to form an Autonomous Tributary Principality, with a National Christian Government and Native Militia.

ART. I. Bulgaria, within the limits determined by the majority of the Bulgarian population, and which cannot, under any circumstances, be less than those described by the Constantinople Conference (**No. 477**), shall form an autonomous tributary principality, with a national Christian Government and a native militia. The Ottoman army shall not remain there.

* The purport of these Bases was communicated by Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby, on the 25th of January, 1878.

† See page 2661.

[Preliminary Bases of Peace.]

Independence of Montenegro. Increase of Territory. Frontier to be fixed hereafter.

ART. II. The independence of Montenegro shall be recognized. An increase of territory equal to that which fell into her hands by the fate of arms shall be secured to her. The definitive frontier shall be fixed hereafter.

Independence of Roumania and Servia. Territorial Indemnity to Roumania. Rectification of Frontier of Servia.

ART. III. The independence of Roumania and Servia shall be recognized. A sufficient territorial indemnity shall be secured to the former, and a rectification of frontier to the latter.

Autonomous Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Reforms in Christian Provinces.

ART. IV. Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be endowed with an autonomous administration, with sufficient guarantees. Analogous reforms shall be introduced into the other Christian Provinces of Turkey in Europe.

Indemnity to Russia. Rights of Russia in the Straits of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

ART. V. The Sublime Porte engages to indemnify Russia for the expenses of the war and for the losses which she was obliged to incur. The form of that indemnity, whether pecuniary or territorial, or otherwise, shall be settled hereafter. His Imperial Majesty the Sultan shall come to an understanding with His Majesty the Emperor of Russia in order to secure the rights and interests of Russia in the Straits of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

Negotiations of Preliminaries of Peace.

Negotiations shall be immediately opened at the headquarters of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke, Commander-in-Chief, between the Plenipotentiaries of the two Governments, to settle the Preliminaries of Peace.

Suspension of Hostilities between Belligerent Armies, including Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro, on Signature of Bases of Peace.

As soon as the present Bases and a Convention of Armistice shall have been signed, hostilities shall be suspended between

[Preliminary Bases of Peace.]

the belligerent armies, including those of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro, during the whole time that the peace negotiations shall last. The Commanders-in-Chief of the two belligerent armies in Asia shall be forthwith informed of the conclusion of an Armistice, which shall also put a stop to military operations.

Turkish Evacuation of Fortresses in Turkey in Europe and Asia.

The Imperial Ottoman Government shall, so soon as the Armistice shall have been signed, give orders to the Ottoman troops to evacuate the Fortresses of Widdin, Rustchuk, and Silistria, in Europe, and that of Erzeroum, in Asia. Russian troops shall be empowered to occupy militarily during the whole of the Conferences certain strategical points specified in the Conventions of Armistice on both the theatres of war.

In witness whereof the present Protocol has been drawn up and signed in duplicate at Adrianople, the $\frac{19^{\text{th}}}{31^{\text{st}}}$ January, 1878.

NICOLAS.
SERVER.
NAMYK.

No. 515.—*CONVENTION of Armistice between Russia, Serbia and Roumania, and Turkey. Signed at Adrianople, 19th January, 1878.**
31st

ART.

TABLE.

Preamble. Reference to Bases of Peace (No. 514).

1. Armistice between the Armies of *Russia, Serbia, and Roumania, and Turkey*. *Russia* to invite *Montenegro* to adhere to Armistice.
2. Armistice to begin from date of Signature. Restoration of Booty taken after Signature of Armistice.
3. *Turkish* Evacuation of Fortresses. Line of Demarcation between the *Russian, Serbian, and Roumanian, and Turkish* Armies.
4. Troops of either Party not within Line of Demarcation to fall back within the Line in three days at latest.
5. Routes to be taken by *Turkish* Troops in evacuating Fortified Places, with their Arms, Ammunition, &c.
6. *Ottoman* Troops and Ships of War to leave *Sulina* within three days. *Russia* to open the Navigation of the *Danube*.
7. *Ottoman* Civil Authorities to remain and perform the Duties of their Office in Provinces occupied by *Russian* or Allied Troops.
8. Railway Traffic on the Lines occupied by *Ottoman* and *Russian* Troops. Military Supervision.
9. Raising of Turkish Blockade of the *Black Sea* during the Armistice.
10. Sick and Wounded of *Ottoman* Army within the Line occupied by *Russian* or Allied Troops. Armistice to commence from 31st January. Details of Armistice in *Asia* to be settled by Military Commissioners. Armistice to be telegraphed to Commander of *Russian* Army in *Asia*.

Reference to Bases of Peace.

(Translation from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg.")

IN consequence of the proposal of the Sublime Porte, and with the consent expressed by their Plenipotentiaries, their Excellencies Server Pasha and Namyk Pasha, to accept the Bases drawn up by Russia for the conclusion of Peace between the belligerent parties (No. 514), the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Russian army declared himself ready to cause the cessation of military operations.

Plenipotentiaries for the conclusion of an Armistice have been appointed: on the part of his Imperial Highness the Commander-in-Chief, his Excellency the Aide-de-Camp General Népo-koïtchitski, chief of the staff of the army in the field and his adjutant, the major-general of the staff of His Majesty the Emperor, Lavitski; and on the part of the Plenipotentiaries

* For French version, see "State Papers," Vol. 69, page 727.

[Armistice.]

of the Sublime Porte, his Excellency the general of division of the staff, Nedjib Pasha, and the general of brigade of the staff, Osman Pasha.

These personages, in virtue of the full powers with which they are invested, have agreed to the following conditions:—

*Armistice between the Armies of Russia, Servia, and Roumania,
and Turkey.*

ART. I. An Armistice is concluded between the armed forces of Russia, Servia, and Roumania on the one side, and those of Turkey on the other, during the whole time of the negotiations of peace until a favourable issue of the latter or of their rupture. In the latter alternative, and before the resumption of hostilities, each of the belligerent parties will be bound to denounce the Armistice three days beforehand, indicating the date and the hour at which hostilities may be resumed. The delay of three days shall begin from the time at which one of the respective parties shall have signified to the other on the spot the superior order he may have received on the subject.

Russia to invite Montenegro to adhere to Armistice.

The Russian Imperial Government will propose to Montenegro to cease military operations and to adhere to the conditions of the Armistice agreed upon between Russia and Turkey; the Sublime Porte will on her part cease operations against Montenegro.

*Armistice to begin from date of Signature. Restoration of Booty
taken after Signature of Armistice.*

ART. II. The Armistice shall take effect from the moment that its conditions shall have been accepted and signed. The troops of either the one or the other party which, after that time, shall have infringed the line of demarcation specified above, shall retrace their steps, restoring the booty taken on the occasion.

Turkish Evacuation of Fortresses.

ART. III. Besides the evacuation of the fortresses of Widdin, Rustchuk, and Silistria, stipulated for in the Bases of Peace (No. 514), the Imperial Ottoman troops will abandon Belgradjik, Razgrad, and Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik.

[Armistice.]

Line of Demarcation between the Russian, Servian, and Roumanian, and Turkish Armies.

The line of demarcation to be established between the Russian, Servian, and Roumanian armies on the one side, and the Ottoman on the other, is traced as follows:—

The line of demarcation shall pass by Baltchik and Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik in a straight line towards Razgrad, with a neutral zone of five kilomètres preceding that line. It shall continue from Razgrad in a straight line to Eski-Djouma; from Eski-Djouma to Osman-Bazar and Kotel (Kazan), which shall be occupied by Russian troops, and the neutral zone shall be traced beyond the line at five kilomètres distance.

Further on the line of demarcation shall run along the Medvan, Déli-Kamtchik, and Bogazdéré rivers, and through the villages of Oglanloukeui and Hadjidéré, as far as Misservi; the neutral zone, of five kilomètres wide, following the two banks of those rivers as far as the sea, and along the coast as far as Lake Derkos. Nevertheless, the Russian troops shall only occupy Bourgas and Midia, on the coast of the Black Sea, for the purpose of facilitating the revictualling of the troops and for the exclusion of contraband of war.

From Lake Derkos the line of demarcation shall proceed by Tchekmedjik and Kardjali in a direct line, crossing the railway on the right bank of the Kara-sou, whose course it shall follow as far as the Sea of Marmora.

The Turkish troops shall evacuate the line of fortifications, as well as Derkos, Hademkeui and Bouyouk-Tchekmedjé. The line of demarcation on their side shall start from Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé in a direct line by Saint-George and Akbounar, on the coast of the Black Sea. The intermediate lands between the Turkish and Russian lines shall form a neutral zone in which no fortifications shall either be constructed or increased, nor repaired during the whole of the armistice.

From the Sea of Marmora the line of demarcation shall pass by the isthmus of Gallipoli, from Charkeni to Ourcha, and further on, along the *Ægean* Sea as far as Dédégatch and Makri, the latter point included. From thence along the line where the tributary waters of the Maritsa (including the Arda) separate themselves, and of the rivers which flow into the *Ægean* Sea, as far as Djouma.

[Armistice.]

It shall continue on a line traced towards Kustendil, Vrania, Planina Goliak, the village of Meslitz, Grapachnitzza Planina; the village of Loubtché, as far as the frontier of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, and by that frontier joining Servia, at a point called Kopaonik Planina. Djouma, Kustendil, Vrania, are occupied by Russian or Servian troops; Prichtina by Ottoman troops.

The tracing of the line of demarcation between the Imperial Ottoman troops and those of Montenegro shall be executed by a Special Commission of Turkish and Montenegrin Plenipotentiaries, with the assistance of a Russian Delegate. The settling on the spot of the limits of the zone of demarcation of the belligerent Imperial armies must take place without delay, immediately after the signature of these conditions, by means of a Commission of officers of both armies being empowered thereto, and chosen from corps and detachments nearest to the places to be traced. Where there are no troops in the vicinity, the zone of demarcation shall follow the direction, and be described by the above neutral limits, and which are brought to the knowledge of the two armies.

The zone of demarcation from Djouma by Vrania, as far as the frontier of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, shall be settled on the spot by a Commission of Delegates of the Imperial Ottoman troops on the one part, and of Servian troops on the other, assisted by a Russian Delegate.

*Troops not within Line of Demarcation to fall back within
Three Days.*

ART. IV. The troops of both belligerent parties which, at the time of the signature of the present Act, shall be outside of the line stated, shall immediately fall back, and that not later than three days' delay.

*Routes to be taken by Turkish Troops in evacuating Fortified
Places, with their Arms, Ammunition, &c.*

ART. V. In evacuating the fortified places mentioned in Article III, the Imperial Ottoman troops shall withdraw with their arms and munitions of war and accoutrements, as well as the stores which can be carried away, in the following directions:—

[Armistice.]

From Widdin and Belgradjik, by the St. Nicolas Pass, towards Ak-Palanka, Nisch, Leskovatz, and by Vrania or Prichtina, as it may be easiest to reach the railroad.

From Rustchuk, Silistria, Hadji-Oglou, Bazardjik, and Razgrad, towards Varna or Choumla, as may be decided on by the Ottoman Military Authorities.

The munitions of war and other stores of the fortresses, ships of war, or those belonging to the State, and everything belonging to them, may be taken away or left in the custody of the Russian military authority, who shall take measures for their preservation until the conclusion of peace, according to an inventory signed in duplicate by both parties. As to the stores which are from their nature perishable, they may be sold or ceded to the Russian military authority for an equivalent price to be agreed upon.

Private property remains intact.

The evacuation of the above-mentioned fortified places must be completed within seven days at latest, reckoning from the receipt of the order relating thereto by the local commander.

Ottoman Troops and Ships of War to leave Sulina within Three Days. Russia to open the Navigation of the Danube.

ART. VI. The Imperial Ottoman troops and ships of war shall also leave the Sulina within three days, should the ice put no impediment thereto. The Russian military authority, on his side, shall cause all obstacles to be removed from the Danube, and shall open the river to navigation, reserving to himself the superintendence thereof.

Ottoman Civil Authorities to remain and perform the Duties of their Office in Provinces occupied by Russian or Allied Troops.

ART. VII. In the provinces occupied by Russian or allied troops, in which at the time of the signature of these conditions Ottoman administrative authorities should still reside there, the latter must remain to continue to perform their duties and maintain tranquillity and order among the population; they will also have to fulfil, as far as possible, the requirements of the Russian military authorities.

[Armistice.]

Railway Traffic on the Lines occupied by the Ottoman and Russian Troops. Military Supervision.

ART. VIII. The railway lines within the radius occupied by Russian troops shall be respected in the same manner as every other private property, and their working shall be free throughout. To that end the Ottoman Government gives to the Companies the right of using their rolling stock throughout the whole extent of the line occupied, as well by the Ottoman armies as by Russian troops. Full liberty shall be granted to passenger and commercial traffic with the following exceptions: it shall be forbidden to carry munitions of war and troops throughout the line of demarcation. Throughout the radius occupied by the two armies the traffic shall take place under the supervision of the military authority of each of them.

Raising of Turkish Blockade of the Black Sea during the Armistice.

ART. IX. The Sublime Porte shall raise the Blockade of the ports of the Black Sea during the whole time of the Armistice,* and shall not prevent the free entrance of vessels into those ports.

Sick and Wounded of Ottoman Army within the Lines occupied by Russian or Allied Troops.

ART. X. The sick and wounded belonging to the Imperial Ottoman army who may remain within the radius occupied by Russian troops or by those of Servia and Montenegro, shall be taken under the care of the Russian and allied military authorities, but they shall be attended by an Ottoman medical staff, should such exist, on the spot. The sick and wounded shall not be considered as prisoners of war, but they shall not be allowed, without the special authority of the Russian and allied military chiefs, to be carried to other places.

The Armistice to commence from 31st January.

The Armistice shall date from the $\frac{19^{\text{th}}}{31^{\text{st}}}$ January, at seven o'clock in the evening. As to the other delays, they are stipulated for in the body of the Armistice.

* See "State Papers," Vol. 68, page 922, and Vol. 69, page 626.

[Armistice.]

Details of Armistice in Asia to be settled by Military Commissioners.

For the seat of war in Asia, the settlement of the details shall take place through the Plenipotentiaries appointed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army in Asia and those of the Ottoman Government.

Armistice to be telegraphed to Commander of Russian Army in Asia.

The commencement of the Armistice at the seat of the war in Europe shall be notified by telegraph to the Commander of the Russian army in Asia.

NEPOKOITCHITSKI.

LAVITSKI.

NEDJIB.

OSMAN.

[On the 7th February, 1878, the British Ambassador at Constantinople (Mr. Layard), informed the Earl of Derby, by telegraph, that the Armistice commenced at 7 P.M. on the 31st January; that the Turks had commenced the withdrawal of guns from the Constantinople lines; and that the Turkish Commanders on the spot were to settle matters relating to the Armistice in Armenia.]

No. 516.—*DESPATCH from Count Beust to the Earl of Derby, containing Proposals for the Meeting of a European Conference at Vienna* to establish an agreement between the Great Powers of Europe on the Modifications which might be found necessary in the Preliminaries of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey.† London, 5th February, 1878.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

My Lord,

By order of my Government I have the honour to bring the following to the knowledge of your Excellency.

Austria-Hungary, in her capacity of Signatory Power of the International Acts, the object of which has been to regulate the political system in the East, has always reserved, in presence of the existing war, her share of influence over the definitive regulation of the conditions of the future peace.

The Imperial Government of Russia, to which we have communicated this point of view, has fully appreciated it.

Now that Preliminaries of Peace have just been signed between Russia and Turkey (**No. 514**), the moment appears to us to have come to establish the agreement of Europe on the modifications which it may become necessary to introduce into the above-mentioned Treaties.

The most suitable means to bring about this agreement appears to us the assembly of a Conference of the Powers signatory of the Treaty of Paris of 1856 (**No. 264**), and of the Protocol of London of 1871 (**No. 433**). We hope that satisfaction will be given by our taking the initiative in this matter.

* Baden was subsequently proposed as the place of meeting, and the British Government accepted the Invitation; but after the signature of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, on the 3rd March (**No. 518**), the Austrian Government proposed, on the 7th March (**No. 519**), that a European Congress, and not a Conference, should be held, and that the place of meeting should be Berlin, which proposal was also accepted by the British Government. See also Note, page 2657.

† Received by the Earl of Derby, 6th February, 1878.

[Proposal for a Conference.]

I am therefore charged to invite the Cabinet of St. James's to be good enough to join in a Conference of the Powers signatory of the above-mentioned international acts.

The particularly friendly nature of their mutual relations causes the Government of the Empire to hope that the Government of the Queen will not have any objection to the assembling of the Conference at Vienna.

As soon as the acceptance in principle of our invitation by the Cabinets invited shall be known to us, we will hasten to propose to them the manner and the date of meeting.

In having the honour to carry out thus the orders of my Government, I venture to beg your Excellency to be good enough to inform me of your answer, which I trust will be in conformity with the proposal of my Government.

I avail, &c.,
BEUST.

No. 517.—*ENGAGEMENT of the Russian Government not to occupy Gallipoli or the Lines of Bulaïr, and of the British and Russian Governments not to occupy the Straits or the Asiatic Shores of the Dardanelles. London, ^{18th}_{21st} February, 1878.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

No. 1.—*Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.*

London, ^{6th}_{18th} February, 1878.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW authorizes me by telegraph to declare to your Excellency that the Imperial Cabinet maintains its promise not to occupy Gallipoli nor to enter the lines of Bulaïr (No. 512).

The Imperial Cabinet expects in return that no English troops should be landed on the Asiatic or European coast.

No. 2.—*Memorandum delivered by the Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff.*

London, 19th February, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction the confirmation of the assurance of the Russian Government that they do not intend to occupy the Peninsula of Gallipoli, and the statement that in this assurance are included the lines of Bulaïr.

Her Majesty's Government are, on their part, ready to meet this assurance by a corresponding engagement not to land troops on the European side of the Straits, and they are prepared to extend this engagement to the Asiatic side of the Straits upon receiving from the Russian Government an assurance, which Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt is in principle included in what has been already said, that the Russian Government also will not occupy that side of the Straits.

No. 3.—*Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.*

London, ^{9th}_{21st} February, 1878.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW charges me to communicate to your

Excellency that the Imperial Cabinet does not intend to occupy the Asiatic shore of the Dardanelles, if England also abstains from doing so.

Should this condition be fulfilled, as well as that of not landing English troops on the European coast of the Straits, we will not occupy Gallipoli, and will not enter the lines of Bulair.



No. 518.—PRELIMINARY TREATY OF PEACE between Russia and Turkey. Signed at San Stefano,

19th February
3rd March, 1878.*†

ART.

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* Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, March 23rd, 1878. See note, page 2699.

† See Protocols of Congress held at Berlin, June, July, 1878 (No. 528), and Treaty signed at Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530).

[Treaty of San Stefano.]

ART.

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* See final paragraph, page 2693.

[Treaty of San Stefano.]

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(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

HIS Majesty the Emperor of Russia and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, inspired with the wish of restoring and securing the blessings of peace to their countries and people, as well as of preventing any fresh complication which might imperil the same, have named as their Plenipotentiaries, with a view to draw up, conclude, and sign the Preliminaries of Peace:—

His Majesty the Emperor of Russia on the one side, the Count Nicolas Ignatiev, Aide-de-Camp General of His Imperial Majesty, Lieutenant-General, Member of the Council of the Empire, &c.; and le Sieur Alexander Nelidow, Chamberlain of the Imperial Court, Conseiller d'Etat actuel, &c.;

And His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans on the other side, Safvet Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, &c.; and Sadoullah Bey, His Majesty's Ambassador at the Imperial Court of Germany, &c.;

Who, after having exchanged their full powers, which were found to be in good and proper form, have agreed to the following Articles:—

*Montenegro. Rectification of Frontier.**

ART. I. In order to put an end to the perpetual conflicts between Turkey and Montenegro, the frontier which separates the two countries will be rectified conformably to the Map hereto annexed, subject to the reserve hereinafter mentioned, in the following manner:—

From the mountain of Dobrostitza the frontier will follow the line indicated by the Conference of Constantinople (No. 477) as

* See Maps facing pages 2674, 2782, and Convention between Turkey and Montenegro of 21st December, 1884. See also Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXVIII, page 2781.

[Treaty of San Stefano.]

far as Korito by Bilek. Thence the new frontier will run to Gatzko (Metochia-Gatzko will belong to Montenegro), and towards the confluence of the Piva and the Tara, ascending towards the north by the Drina as far as its confluence with the Lim. The eastern frontier of the Principality will follow this last river as far as Prijepoljé, and will proceed by Roshaj to Sukha-Planina (leaving Bihor and Roshaj to Montenegro). Taking in Bugovo, Plava, and Gusinje, the frontier line will follow the chain of mountains by Shlieb, Paklen, and along the northern frontier of Albania by the crests of the Mountains Koprivnik, Babavik, Bor-vik, to the highest peak of Prokléti. From that point the frontier will proceed by the summit of Biskaschik, and will run in a straight line to the Lake of Tjiceni-hoti. Dividing Tjiceni-hoti and Tjiceni-kastrati, it will cross the Lake of Scutari to the Boyana, the thalweg of which it will follow as far as the sea. Nicholsich, Gatzko, Spouje, Podgoritza, Zabliak, and Antivari will remain to Montenegro.*

Montenegro. European Boundary Commission to be appointed.

A European Commission, on which the Sublime Porte and the Government of Montenegro shall be represented, will be charged with fixing the definitive limits of the Principality, making on the spot such modifications in the general tracing as it may think necessary and equitable, from the point of view of the respective interests and tranquillity of the two countries, to which it will accord in this respect the equivalents deemed necessary.

Montenegro. Navigation of the Boyana.†

The navigation of the Boyana having always given rise to disputes between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro, will be the subject of a special regulation, which will be prepared by the same European Commission.

Montenegro. Independence recognized by the Porte.‡ Character and Form of Relations between Turkey and Montenegro to be determined subsequently.

ART. II. The Sublime Porte recognizes definitively the Independence of the Principality of Montenegro.

* Dulcigno was captured by the Montenegrins on the 18th January, 1878.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXIX, page 2783.

‡ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. XXVI and XXVII, page 2781.

[Treaty of San Stefano.]

An understanding between the Imperial Government of Russia, the Ottoman Government, and the Principality of Montenegro will determine subsequently the character and form of the relations between the Sublime Porte and the Principality as regards particularly the establishment of Montenegrin Agents at Constantinople, and in certain localities of the Ottoman Empire, where the necessity for such Agents shall be recognized, the extradition of fugitive criminals on the one territory or the other, and the subjection of Montenegrins travelling or sojourning in the Ottoman Empire to the Ottoman laws and authorities, according to the principles of international law and the established usages concerning the Montenegrins.

Montenegro. Convention to be concluded. Relations between Inhabitants on Confines; and Military Works.

A Convention will be concluded between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro to regulate the questions connected with the relations between the inhabitants of the confines of the two countries and with the military works on the same confines. The points upon which an understanding cannot be established will be settled by the arbitration of Russia and Austria-Hungary.

Montenegro. Disputes with Turkey. Arbitration of Russia and Austria-Hungary.

Henceforward, if there is any discussion or conflict, except as regards new territorial demands, Turkey and Montenegro will leave the settlement of their differences to Russia and Austria-Hungary, who will arbitrate in common.

Montenegro. Evacuation of Turkish Territory.

The troops of Montenegro will be bound to evacuate the territory not comprised within the limits indicated above within ten days from the signature of the Preliminaries of Peace.

*Servia. Independence. Boundaries.**

ART. III. Servia is recognized as independent. Its frontier, marked on the annexed Map, will follow the thalweg of the Drina, leaving Little Zwornik and Zakar to the Principality, and following the old limit as far as the sources of the stream

* See Maps facing pages 2676 and 2786; and Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. XXXIV—XXXVI, pages 2785 and 2786.

[Treaty of San Stefano.]

Dezevo, near Stoilac. Thence the new line will follow the course of that stream as far as the River Raska, and then the course of the latter as far as Novi-Bazar.

From Novi-Bazar, ascending the stream which passes near the villages of Mekinje and Irgoviste, as far as its source, the frontier line will run by Bosur Planina, in the valley of the Ibar, and will then descend the stream which falls into this river, near the village of Ribanic.

The line will then follow the course of the Rivers Ibar, Sitnitza, and Lab, and of the brook Batintze to its source (upon the Grapachnitza Planina). Thence the frontier will follow the heights which separate the waters of the Kriva and the Veterinitza, and will meet the latter river by the shortest route at the mouth of the stream Miovatzka, which it will ascend, crossing the Miovatzka Planina and redescending towards the Morava, near the village of Kalimanci.

From this point the frontier will descend to the Morava as far as the River Vlossina, near the village of Staikovtzi. Re-ascending the latter river, as well as the Linberazda, and the brook Koukavitze, the line will pass by the Sukha Planina, will run along the stream Vrylo as far as the Nisawa, and will descend the said river as far as the village of Kronpatz, whence the line will rejoin by the shortest route the old Servian frontier to the south-east of Karaoul Baré, and will not leave it until it reaches the Danube.

Ada-Kale will be evacuated and razed.

Servia. Appointment of a Boundary Commission.

A Turco-Servian Commission, assisted by a Russian Commissioner, will, within three months, arrange upon the spot the definite frontier line, and will definitely settle the questions relating to the islands of the Drina. A Bulgarian delegate will be admitted to participate in the work of the Commission when it shall be engaged on the frontier between Servia and Bulgaria.

*Servia. Right of Non-resident Mussulmans to hold Real Property.**

Turco-Servian Commission, assisted by Russian Commissioner, to be appointed.

ART. IV. The Mussulmans holding lands in the territories

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXXIX, page 2787.

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annexed to Servia, and who wish to reside out of the Principality, can preserve their real property by having them farmed out or administered by others. A Turco-Servian Commission, assisted by a Russian Commissioner, will be charged to decide absolutely, in the course of two years, all questions relating to the verification of real estate in which Mussulman interests are concerned.

*Servia. Commission to settle Alienation of State Property, Religious Endowments (Vakoufs), and Private Interests. Rights of Servians travelling in Turkey.**

This Commission will also be called upon to settle within three years the method of alienation of State property and of religious endowments (*Vakoufs*), as well as the questions relative to the interests of private persons which may be involved. Until a direct Treaty is concluded between Turkey and Servia determining the character of the relations between the Sublime Porte and the Principality, Servian subjects travelling or sojourning in the Ottoman Empire shall be treated according to the general principles of international law.

Servia. Evacuation of Turkish Territory by Servian Troops.

The Servian troops shall be bound to evacuate the territory not comprised within the above-mentioned limits within fifteen days from the signature of the Preliminaries of Peace.

Roumania. Independence.† Indemnity to Roumania.

ART. V. The Sublime Porte recognises the Independence of Roumania, which will establish its right to an indemnity, to be discussed between the two countries.

Roumania. Rights of Roumanians in Turkey.‡

Until the conclusion of a direct Treaty between Turkey and Roumania, Roumanian subjects will enjoy in Turkey all the rights guaranteed to the subjects of other European Powers.

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. XXXIX, XL, and XLI, page 2789.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XLIII, page 2790.

‡ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. L, page 2792.

*Bulgaria. An Autonomous Tributary Principality, with Christian Government and National Militia.**

ART. VI. Bulgaria is constituted an autonomous tributary Principality, with a Christian Government and a national militia.

*Bulgaria. Boundaries to be traced by Russo-Turkish Commission.**

The definitive frontiers of the Bulgarian Principality will be traced by a special Russo-Turkish Commission before the evacuation of Roumelia by the Imperial Russian Army.

Bulgaria. Duties of Russo-Turkish Commission, Nationalities, &c.

This Commission will, in working out the modifications to be made on the spot in the general tracing, take into account the principle of the nationality of the majority of the inhabitants of the border districts, conformably to the Bases of Peace, and also the topographical necessities and practical interests of the intercommunication of the local population.

Bulgaria. Line of Boundary.†

The extent of the Bulgarian Principality is laid down in general terms on the accompanying Map, which will serve as a basis for the definitive fixing of the limits. Leaving the new frontier of the Servian Principality, the line will follow the western limit of the Caza of Wrania as far as the chain of the Kara-dagh. Turning towards the west, the line will follow the western limits of the Cazas of Koumanovo, Kotchani, Kalkandelen, to Mount Korab; thence by the River Welestchitza as far as its junction with the black Drina. Turning towards the south by the Drina and afterwards by the western limit of the Caza of Ochride towards Mount Linas, the frontier will follow the western limits of the Cazas of Gortcha and Starovo as far as Mount Grammos. Then by the Lake of Kastoria, the frontier line will rejoin the River Moglénitza, and after having followed its course, and passed to the south of Yanitza (Wardar Yenidje), will go by the mouth of the Wardar and by the Galliko towards the villages of Parga and of Sarai-keui; thence through

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. I, page 2766.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. II, page 2766.
See also Maps facing pages 2680 and 2768.

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the middle of Lake Bechik-Guel to the mouth of the Rivers Strouma and Karassou, and by the sea coast as far as Buru-Guel; thence striking north-west towards Mount Tchaltépé by the chain of Rhodope as far as Mount Krouschowo, by the Black Balkans (Kara-Balkan), by the mountains Eschek-koulatchi, Tchepeleon, Karakolas, and Tschiklar, as far as the River Arda.

Thence the line will be traced in the direction of the town of Tchirmen, and leaving the town of Adrianople to the south, by the villages of Sugutlion, Kara-Hamza, Arnaout-keui, Akardji, and Enidje as far as the River Tékéderessi. Following the Rivers Tékéderessi and Tchoulouderessi as far as Loulé-Bourgaz, and thence, by the River Soudjak-déré as far as the village of Serguen, the frontier line will go by the heights straight towards Hakim-tabiassi, where it will strike the Black Sea. It will leave the sea coast near Mangalia, following the southern boundaries of the Sandjak of Toultscha, and will come out on the Danube above Rassoava.

*Bulgaria. Election of Prince. Exclusion of Dynasties of Great European Powers.**

ART. VII. The Prince of Bulgaria shall be freely elected by the population and confirmed by the Sublime Porte, with the assent of the Powers. No member of the reigning dynasties of the great European Powers shall be capable of being elected Prince of Bulgaria.

*Bulgaria. Election of Prince in case of Vacancy.**

In the event of the dignity of Prince of Bulgaria being vacant, the election of the new Prince shall be made subject to the same conditions and forms.

Bulgaria. Assembly of Notables to draw up Organic Law previous to Election of Prince.†

Before the election of the Prince, an Assembly of Bulgarian Notables, to be convoked at Philippopolis (Plowdiw) or Tyrnowo, shall draw up, under the superintendence of an Imperial Russian Commissioner, and in the presence of an Ottoman Commissioner, the organization of the future administration, in conformity with

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. III, page 2768.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. IV, page 2769.

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the precedent established in 1830 after the Peace of Adrianople (No. 145), in the Danubian Principalities.*

Bulgaria. Rights and Interests of different Populations.†

In the localities where Bulgarians are mixed with Turks, Greeks, Wallachians (Koutzo-Vlachs), or others, proper account is to be taken of the rights and interests of these populations in the elections and in the preparation of the Organic Laws.

Bulgaria. Russian Commissioner to superintend New System for Two Years. Special European Delegates to be associated with Russian Commissioner after first Year.

The introduction of the new system into Bulgaria, and the superintendence of its working, will be entrusted for two years to an Imperial Russian Commissioner. At the expiration of the first year after the introduction of the new system, and if an understanding on this subject has been established between Russia, the Sublime Porte, and the Cabinets of Europe, they can, if it is deemed necessary, associate Special Delegates with the Imperial Russian Commissioner.

Bulgaria; Evacuation of, by Ottoman Troops. Fortresses to be razed. Disposal of Material of War by Turkey.‡

ART. VIII. The Ottoman army will no longer remain in Bulgaria, and all the ancient fortresses will be razed at the expense of the local government. The Sublime Porte will have the right to dispose, as it sees fit, of the war material and of the other property belonging to the Ottoman Government which may have been left in the Danubian fortresses already evacuated in accordance with the terms of the Armistice of the ^{19th}/_{31st} January (No. 515), as well as of that in the strongholds of Schoumla and Varna.

Bulgaria. Russian Occupation until formation of Native Militia.

Until the complete formation of a native militia sufficient to preserve order, security, and tranquillity, and the strength of

* See page 2694.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art IV, page 2769.

‡ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XI, page 2773.

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which will be fixed later on by an understanding between the Ottoman Government and the Imperial Russian Cabinet, Russian troops will occupy the country, and will give armed assistance to the Commissioner in case of need. This occupation will also be limited to a term approximating to two years.

Bulgaria. Strength of Army of Occupation. Expense to be borne by Bulgaria. Russian Communications, with necessary Depôts.

The strength of the Russian army of occupation, to be composed of six divisions of infantry and two of cavalry, which will remain in Bulgaria after the evacuation of Turkey by the Imperial army, shall not exceed 50,000 men. It will be maintained at the expense of the country occupied. The Russian troops of occupation in Bulgaria will maintain their communications with Russia, not only through Roumania, but also by the ports of the Black Sea, Varna and Bourgas, where they may organize, for the term of the occupation, the necessary depôts.*

Bulgaria. Tribute to Turkey.†

ART. IX. The amount of the annual tribute which Bulgaria is to pay the Suzerain Court, by transmitting it to a bank to be hereafter named by the Sublime Porte, will be determined by an agreement between Russia, the Ottoman Government, and the other Cabinets, at the end of the first year during which the new organization shall be in operation. This tribute will be calculated on the average revenue of all the territory which is to form part of the Principality.

Bulgaria. Agreement to be made with Turkey to undertake Obligations towards Rustchuck and Varna Railway Company, as well as with other Railway Companies.‡

Bulgaria will take upon itself the obligations of the Imperial Ottoman Government towards the Rustchuck and Varna Railway Company, after an agreement has been come to between the Sublime Porte, the Government of the Principality, and the Directors of this Company. The regulations as to the other railways (*voies ferrées*) which cross the Principality are also reserved for an agreement between the Sublime Porte, the

* See Convention between Bulgaria and Russia of 28th July, 1883.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. IX, page 2771.

‡ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. X, page 2772.

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Government established in Bulgaria, and the Directors of the Companies concerned.

Bulgaria. Transport of Turkish Troops, &c., through Bulgaria by fixed Routes. Special Regulation to lay down Conditions.

ART. X. The Sublime Porte shall have the right to make use of Bulgaria for the transport by fixed routes of its troops, munitions, and provisions to the provinces beyond the Principality, and *vice versâ*. In order to avoid difficulties and misunderstandings in the application of this right, while guaranteeing the military necessities of the Sublime Porte, a special regulation will lay down the conditions of it within three months after the ratification of the present Act by an understanding between the Sublime Porte and the Bulgarian Government.

*Bulgaria. Irregular Troops, Bashi-Bazouks, and Circassians.**

It is fully understood that this right is limited to the regular Ottoman troops, and that the irregulars, the Bashi-Bazouks, and the Circassians will be absolutely excluded from it.

Bulgaria. Right of Turkey to Postal and Telegraph Services.

The Sublime Porte also reserves to itself the right of sending its postal service through the Principality, and of maintaining telegraphic communication. These two points shall also be determined in the manner and within the period of time indicated above.

Bulgaria. Right of non-resident Mussulmans to hold Real Property. Turco-Bulgarian Commissions, under superintendence of Russian Commissioners, to be appointed.

ART. XI.† The Mussulman proprietors or others who fix their personal residence outside the Principality may retain their estates by having them farmed or administered by others. Turco-Bulgarian Commissions shall sit in the principal centres of population, under the superintendence of Russian Commissioners, to decide absolutely in the course of two years all questions relative to the verification of real property in which either Mussulmans or others may be interested.

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XI, page 2773.

† See also final paragraph, page 2693. But see Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XII, page 2773.

*Bulgaria. Similar Commissions to settle Alienation, &c., of State Property and Religious Endowments (Vakoufs).**

Similar Commissions will be charged with the duty of regulating within two years all questions relative to the mode of alienation, working, or use for the benefit of the Sublime Porte of the property of the State, and of the religious endowments (*Vakoufs*).

Bulgaria. Sale of unclaimed Properties.

At the expiration of the two years mentioned above, all properties which shall not have been claimed shall be sold by public auction, and the proceeds thereof shall be devoted to the support of the widows and orphans, Mussulman as well as Christian, victims of the recent events.

Danube. Fortresses to be razed. No Strongholds to exist on its Banks. Vessels of War not to navigate Waters of the Principalities. Exceptions.†

ART. XII. All the Danubian fortresses shall be razed. There shall be no strongholds in future on the banks of this river, nor any men-of-war in the waters of the Principalities of Roumania, Servia, and Bulgaria, except the usual "stationnaires" and the small vessels intended for river-police and Custom-house purposes.

Danube. Maintenance of Rights, &c., of International Commission of Lower Danube.‡

The rights, obligations, and prerogatives of the International Commission of the Lower Danube are maintained intact.

Danube. Turkey to render passage of Soulina again navigable, and to indemnify Private Individuals.

ART. XIII. The Sublime Porte undertakes to render the passage of Soulina again navigable, and to indemnify the private individuals who have suffered loss by the war and the

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XII, page 2773.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. LII, page 2793.

‡ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. XLVI, LIII, to LVII, pages 2789, 2791, and 2792.

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interruption of the navigation of the Danube, applying for this double charge a sum of 500,000 francs from the amount due to the Sublime Porte from the Danubian Commission.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina. Proposals of Conference at Constantinople to be introduced.**

ART. XIV. The European proposals communicated to the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries at the first sitting of the Constantinople Conference (No. 447), shall be immediately introduced into Bosnia and Herzegovina, with any modifications which may be agreed upon in common between the Sublime Porte, the Government of Russia, and that of Austria-Hungary.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina. Non-payment of Arrears of Taxes. Revenues to be applied to indemnify Families of Refugees and Inhabitants, and local needs. Application of future Revenues.**

The payment of arrears of taxes shall not be required, and the current revenues of those provinces until the 1st March, 1880, shall be exclusively applied to indemnify the families of refugees and inhabitants, victims of recent events, without distinction of race or creed, as well as to the local needs of the country. The sum to be received annually after this period by the Central Government shall be subsequently fixed by a special understanding between Turkey, Russia, and Austria-Hungary.

Crete. Application of Organic Law of 1868.†

ART. XV. The Sublime Porte engages to apply scrupulously in the Island of Crete the Organic Law of 1868‡ taking into account the previously expressed wishes of the native population.

Epirus, Thessaly, and other parts of Turkey in Europe. Organic Laws.§

An analogous law adapted to local requirements shall likewise be introduced into Epirus, Thessaly, and the other parts of

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXV, page 2780.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXIII, page 2779.

‡ See Appendix, and "State Papers," Vol. 58, page 138.

§ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXIV, page 2779.

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Turkey in Europe, for which a special constitution is not provided by the present Act.

*Organic Laws. Special Commissions to settle Details.**

Special Commissions, in which the native population will be largely represented, shall in each province be entrusted with the task of elaborating the details of the new organization, and the result of their labours shall be submitted to the Sublime Porte, who will consult the Imperial Government of Russia before carrying it into effect.

Armenia; Turkish Reforms and Improvements in, and in Provinces inhabited by Armenians. Security against Kurds and Circassians.†

ART. XVI. As the evacuation by the Russian troops of the territory which they occupy in Armenia, and which is to be restored to Turkey, might give rise to conflicts and complications detrimental to the maintenance of good relations between the two countries, the Sublime Porte engages to carry into effect, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by Armenians, and to guarantee their security from Kurds and Circassians.

Amnesty to Ottoman Subjects. Prisoners and Exiles to be restored to Liberty.‡

ART. XVII. A full and complete amnesty is granted by the Sublime Porte to all Ottoman subjects compromised by recent events, and all persons imprisoned on this account or sent into exile shall be immediately set at liberty.

Khotour. Possession of Town; and Delimitation of Turco-Persian Boundary.§

ART. XVIII. The Sublime Porte will take into serious consideration the opinion expressed by the Commissioners of the Mediating Powers as regards the possession of the town of

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXIII, page 2779.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. LXI, page 2796.

‡ See also Art. XXVII, page 2692, and Definitive Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey of 8th February, 1879 (No. 542).

§ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. LX, page 2796.

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Khotour, and engages to have the works of the definitive delimitation of the Turco-Persian Boundary carried into effect.

*War Indemnities, Pecuniary and Territorial, to be paid by Turkey to Russia.**

ART. XIX. The war indemnity and the losses imposed on Russia which His Majesty the Emperor of Russia claims, and which the Sublime Porte has bound itself to reimburse to him, consist of—

(a.) 900,000,000 roubles for war expenses (maintenance of the army, replacing of war material, and war contracts).

(b.) 400,000,000 roubles on account of damage done to the south coast of Russia, to her export commerce, to her industries, and to her railways.

(c.) 100,000,000 roubles for injuries inflicted on the Caucasus by the invasion ; and,

(d.) 10,000,000 roubles for costs and damages of Russian subjects and establishments in Turkey.

Total 1,410,000,000 roubles.

Taking into consideration the financial embarrassments of Turkey, and in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty the Sultan, the Emperor of Russia consents to substitute for the payment of the greater part of the moneys enumerated in the above paragraph, the following territorial cessions :—

War Indemnities in Europe. Sandjak of Toultscha. Delta of the Danube, Island of Serpents, Bessarabia, &c.†

(a.) The Sandjak of Toultscha, that is to say, the districts (Cazas) of Kilia, Soulina, Mahmoudié, Isaktcha, Toultscha, Matchine, Babadagh, Hirsowo, Kustendje, and Medjidie, as well as the Delta Islands and the Isle of Serpents.

Not wishing, however, to annex this territory and the Delta Islands, Russia reserves the right of exchanging them for the part of Bessarabia‡ detached from her by the Treaty of 1856 (No. 264), and which is bounded on the south by the thalweg of the Kilia branch and the mouth of the Stary-Stamboul.

* See Treaty, Russia and Turkey, 8th February, 1879 (No. 542).

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. XLV and XLVI, page 2791.

‡ See Protocol, Russia and Roumania, 17th December, 1878 (No. 540),

*Waters and Fisheries.**

The question of the apportionment of Waters and Fisheries shall be determined by a Russo-Roumanian Commission within a year after the ratification of the Treaty of Peace.

War Indemnities in Asia. Ardahan, Kars, Batoum, Bayazet, &c.†

(b.) Ardahan, Kars, Batoum, Bayazet, and the territory as far as the Saganlough.

In its general outline, the frontier line, leaving the Black Sea coast, will follow the crest of the mountains which separate the affluents of the River Hopa from those of the River Tcharokh, and the chain of mountains to the south of the town of Artwin up to the River Tcharokh, near the villages of Alat and Bechaget; then the frontier will pass by the peaks of Mounts Dervenikghek, Hortchezor, and Bedjiguin-Dagh, by the crest which separates the affluents of the Rivers Tortoum-tchai and the Tcharokh by the heights near Zaily-Vihine, coming down at the village Vihine-Kilissa to the River Tortoum-tchai; thence it will follow the Sivridagh Chain to the pass (*col*) of the same name, passing south of the village of Noriman; then it will turn to the south-east and go to Zivine, whence the frontier, passing west of the road which leads from Zivine to the villages of Ardozt and Horassan, will turn south by the Saganlough Chain to the village of Gilitchman; then by the crest of the Charian-Dagh it will arrive, ten versts south of Hamour, at the Mourad-tchai defile; then the line will follow the crest of the Alla-Dagh and the summits of the Hori and Tandourek, and, passing south of the Bayazet valley, will proceed to rejoin the old Turco-Persian frontier to the south of the lake of Kazli-guenl.

The definitive limits of the territory annexed to Russia, and indicated on the Map hereto appended,‡ will be fixed by a Commission composed of Russian and Ottoman delegates.

This Commission in its labours will take into account the topography of localities, as well as considerations of good administration and other conditions calculated to insure the tranquillity of the country.

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XLVII, page 2792.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. LVIII—LXI, pages 2794—2796.

‡ See Map.

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War Indemnities. Mode of Payment.*

(c.) The territories mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) are ceded to Russia as an equivalent for the sum of one milliard and one hundred million (1,100,000,000) roubles. As for the rest of the indemnity, apart from the 10,000,000 of roubles intended to indemnify Russian interests and establishments in Turkey—namely, 300,000,000 of roubles—the mode of payment and guarantee of that sum shall be settled by an understanding between the Imperial Government of Russia and that of His Majesty the Sultan.

War Indemnities. Russian Subjects and Establishments.*

(d.) The 10,000,000 roubles claimed as an indemnity for the Russian subjects and establishments in Turkey shall be paid as soon as the claims of those interested are examined by the Russian Embassy at Constantinople and handed to the Sublime Porte.

Lawsuits of Russian Subjects.

ART. XX. The Sublime Porte will take effective steps to put an amicable end to the lawsuits of Russian subjects pending for several years, to indemnify the latter if need be, and to carry into effect without delay all judgments passed.

Liberty to Inhabitants of Ceded Territories to leave and sell their Real Property.

ART. XXI. The inhabitants of the districts ceded to Russia who wish to take up their residence out of these territories will be free to retire on selling all their real property. For this purpose an interval of three years is granted to them, counting from the date of ratification of the present Act.

On the expiration of that time those of the inhabitants who shall not have sold their real property and left the country shall remain as Russian subjects.

Sale of State Property and Religious Establishments by Russo-Turkish Commission. Removal of War Material, &c., from Ceded Territories, not occupied by Russian Troops.

Real property belonging to the State, or to religious establishments situated out of the localities aforesaid, shall be sold

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. LVIII—LX, pages 2794—2796; and Treaty between Russia and Turkey of 8th February, 1879 (No. 542).

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within the same interval of three years, as shall be arranged by a special Russo-Turkish Commission. The same Commission shall be intrusted with determining how the Ottoman Government is to remove its war material, munitions, supplies, and other State property actually in the forts, towns, and localities ceded to Russia, and not at present occupied by Russian troops.

*Rights of Russian Ecclesiastics, &c., travelling or residing in Turkey.**

ART. XXII. Russian ecclesiastics, pilgrims, and monks travelling or sojourning in Turkey in Europe or in Asia shall enjoy the same rights, advantages, and privileges as the foreign ecclesiastics of any other nationality.

*Russian Diplomatic and Consular Protection to Russian Ecclesiastics, their Possessions, &c., in Holy Places, and elsewhere.**

The right of official protection by the Imperial Embassy and Russian Consulates in Turkey is recognised, both as regards the persons above-mentioned, and their possessions, religious houses, charitable institutions, &c., in the Holy Places and elsewhere.

*Mount Athos. Rights and Privileges of Russian Monks.**

The monks of Mount Athos, of Russian origin, shall be maintained in all their possessions and former privileges, and shall continue to enjoy in the three convents belonging to them and in the adjoining buildings the same rights and privileges as are assured to the other religious establishments and convents of Mount Athos.

Renewal of all Treaties of Commerce, Jurisdiction, &c., between Russia and Turkey, except clauses affected by present Act.†

ART. XXIII. All the Treaties, Conventions, and agreements previously concluded between the two High Contracting Parties relative to commerce, jurisdiction, and the position of Russian subjects in Turkey, and which had been abrogated by the state of war, shall come into force again, with the exception of the clauses affected by the present Act. The two Governments will be placed again in the same relation to one another, with respect

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. LXII, page 2796.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. LXIII, page 2798.

to all their engagements and commercial and other relations, as they were in before the declaration of war (No. 493).

Bosphorus and Dardanelles. To remain open to Neutral Merchant Vessels in time of War. A Fictitious Blockade of Ports of Black Sea and Sea of Azow not to be renewed.*

ART. XXIV. The Bosphorus and the Dardanelles shall remain open in time of war as in time of peace to the merchant vessels of neutral States arriving from or bound to Russian ports. The Sublime Porte consequently engages never henceforth to establish at the ports of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azow, a fictitious blockade (*blocus fictif*), at variance with the spirit of the Declaration signed at Paris on the $\frac{4}{16}$ th of April, 1856 (No. 271).

Russian Evacuation of Turkey in Europe, except Bulgaria, after conclusion of Definitive Peace.†

ART. XXV. The complete evacuation of Turkey in Europe, with the exception of Bulgaria, by the Russian army will take place within three months after the conclusion of the Definitive Peace between His Majesty the Emperor of Russia and His Majesty the Sultan.

Shipment of Russian Troops from ports of Black Sea and Sea of Marmora.

In order to save time, and to avoid the cost of the prolonged maintenance of the Russian troops in Turkey and Roumania, part of the Imperial army may proceed to the ports of the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmora, to be there shipped in vessels belonging to the Russian Government or chartered for the occasion.

Evacuation of Turkey in Asia, viâ Trebizond, after conclusion of Definitive Peace. Evacuation to commence after Exchange of Ratifications.‡

The evacuation of Turkey in Asia will be effected within the space of six months, dating from the conclusion of the definitive

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. LXIII, page 2798.

† The Definitive Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey was signed at Constantinople on the 8th February, 1879 (No. 542); but see Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXII, page 2778.

‡ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. XI, XXII, XXXII, and XLI, pages 2773, 2778, 2784, and 2789.

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peace, and the Russian troops will be entitled to take ship at Trebizond, in order to return by the Caucasus or the Crimea.

The operations of the evacuation will begin immediately after the exchange of ratifications.

*Russian Administration of occupied Localities until Evacuation.
Turkey not to participate therein.*

ART. XXVI. As long as the Imperial Russian troops remain in the localities which, in conformity with the present Act, will be restored to the Sublime Porte, the administration and order of affairs will continue in the same state as has existed since the occupation. The Sublime Porte will not participate therein during all that time, nor until the entire departure of all the troops.

Ottoman Authority not to be exercised until possession is handed over by Russia.

The Ottoman forces shall not enter the places to be restored to the Sublime Porte, and the Sublime Porte cannot begin to exercise its authority there until notice of each fortress and province having been evacuated by the Russian troops shall have been given by the Commander of these troops to the officer appointed for this purpose by the Sublime Porte.

Amnesty. Ottoman Subjects not to be punished for their Relations with Russia during the War. Liberty to Persons and their Families to leave with Russian Troops.*

ART. XXVII. The Sublime Porte undertakes not to punish in any manner, or allow to be punished, those Ottoman subjects who may have been compromised by their relations with the Russian army during the war. In the event of any persons wishing to withdraw with their families when the Russian troops leave, the Ottoman authorities shall not oppose their departure.

Prisoners of War. Exchange of, on Ratification of Preliminaries of Peace.

ART. XXVIII. Immediately upon the ratification of the Preliminaries of Peace, the prisoners of war shall be reciprocally restored under the care of special Commissioners appointed on

* See also Art. XVII, page 2686, and Definitive Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey of 8th February, 1879 (No. 542).

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both sides, who for this purpose shall go to Odessa and Sebastopol. The Ottoman Government will pay all the expenses of the maintenance of the prisoners that are returned to them, in eighteen equal instalments in the space of six years, in accordance with the accounts that will be drawn up by the above-mentioned Commissioners.

The exchange of prisoners between the Ottoman Government and the Governments of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro will be made on the same bases, deducting, however, in the account, the number of prisoners restored by the Ottoman Government from the number of prisoners that will have to be restored to that Government.

Ratifications.

ART. XXIX. The present Act shall be ratified by their Imperial Majesties the Emperor of Russia and the Emperor of the Ottomans, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in fifteen days, or sooner if possible, at St. Petersburg, where likewise an agreement shall be come to as to the place and the time at which the stipulations of the present Act shall be invested with all the solemn forms usually observed in Treaties of Peace.* It is, however, well understood that the High Contracting Parties consider themselves as formally bound by the present Act from the moment of its ratification.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have appended their signatures and seals to the present Act.

Done at San Stefano, the ^{nineteenth February}_{third March}, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

(L.S.) Cte. N. IGNATIEW.

(L.S.) NELIDOW.

(L.S.) SAFVET.

(L.S.) SADOULLAH.

FINAL PARAGRAPH TO ART. XI.†

Bulgarians travelling or sojourning in Turkey to be subject to Turkish Laws and Authorities.

Final paragraph of Art. XI of the Act of the Preliminaries of Peace signed this day, ^{February 19}_{March 3}, 1878, which was omitted, and which should form an integral part of the said Article:—

* Ratifications exchanged at St. Petersburg, ⁵₇th March, 1878.

† See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XII, page 2773.

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The inhabitants of the Principality of Bulgaria when travelling or sojourning in the other parts of the Ottoman Empire shall be subject to the Ottoman laws and authorities.

(L.S.) Cte. N. IGNATIEW.

(L.S.) NELIDOW.

(L.S.) SAFVET.

(L.S.) SADOULLAH.

San Stefano, $\frac{\text{February 19}}{\text{March 3}}$, 1878.

*Regulations for the Danubian Principalities, established
in 1830.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament in May, 1878.)

REGULATIONS for the Reform of the Administration in the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, comprised in nine chapters, viz. :—

Chapter I.—*The Election of Princes.*

They shall be elected by the Extraordinary General Assembly, convoked *ad hoc* by the Ordinary General Assembly, and without other functions than those of electing Princes. This Extraordinary General Assembly shall be composed in the case of Wallachia of 192 members, viz. : of the Metropolitan Archbishop as President; of 3 Bishops; of 50 boyards of the first class; of 75 boyards of the second and third classes; of 36 Provincial Deputies elected by the notables of the districts; and of 27 Deputies of the Corporations of the towns.

In the case of Moldavia of 132 members, viz. : the Metropolitan Archbishop as President; 2 Bishops and 45 boyards of the first class; 30 of the second class; 32 Provincial Deputies; 21 Deputies of the Corporations of the towns; and one Deputy of the Academy.

Chapter II.—*The Ordinary General Assembly.*

It shall be composed, in the case of Wallachia, of 70 members, viz. : 3 Bishops, 4 Ministers (that is to say, of the Ministers of Finance, of Commerce, of the Interior, and of Justice), of 24

* Referred to in above Treaty, Art. VII, page 2680.

boyards of the first class, and 28 Deputies of the districts. The Metropolitan Archbishop will be President of this Assembly.

For Moldavia, of 40 members, viz.: 2 Bishops, 4 Ministers (that is to say, of the Ministers of Finance, of Commerce, of the Interior, and of Justice), of 14 boyards of the first class, and of 20 Deputies of the districts. This Assembly will also be presided over by the Metropolitan Archbishop.

This Assembly shall be convoked by the Prince every winter; he will also have the prerogative of dismissing it whenever he shall judge it expedient to do so.

The duties of the Assembly will be those of controlling the receipts and expenditure of the Administration, of voting the Budget, of enacting new laws, &c.

Chapter III.—*On Finance.*

All the former taxes, of whatever kind, shall be abolished, and will be replaced by new taxes, which, including the receipts from customs, salt mines, &c., are approximately estimated at a total sum of 11,605,000 Turkish piastres for Wallachia, and at that of 5,642,000 Turkish piastres for Moldavia.

The poll-tax imposed on the labouring class shall not vary from 24 piastres a head.

Chapter IV.—*The Administrative Council.*

This Council in each of the Principalities shall be composed of the Minister of the Interior as President, and of the Ministers of Finance and of Commerce.

Chapter V.—*On Commerce.*

There shall be free trade both by land and sea with all nations, without distinction as to preference or priority.

Chapter VI.—*On Sanitary Measures.*

A permanent sanitary line and quarantine stations shall be established on all the frontiers of the Principalities, and notably, for the present, on the left bank of the Danube.

Ships arriving at Galatz and Brahiloff from Constantinople, or other Turkish ports, shall always be subjected to a quarantine of four days when the plague does not exist on the near side of the Balkans, and of eight days when it exists between the mountains and the Danube.

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Merchandize generally will undergo a quarantine of 16 days, but furs will remain in quarantine 24 days, and cotton and wool from Egypt 42 days.

Chapter VII.—*Of the Establishment of a Body of Gendarmerie.*

This force shall be composed, for the two Principalities, of 6,000 men, both infantry and cavalry, namely, 4,460 for Wallachia, and 1,540 for Moldavia.

These troops shall be raised by recruitment, and not by conscription, except in case of urgent necessity. They shall be armed, equipped, fed, and paid by Government, and their families shall be exempted from taxation.

Chapter VIII.—*Of the Judicial Body.*

There shall be in every district a Court of First Instance, composed of seven Judges on active service, with six substitutes.

There shall also be Tribunals of Second Instance, each composed of seven Judges; a Judicial Divan composed of twelve members, seven of whom shall belong to the civil and five to the criminal section; and a High Court of Appeal.

Chapter IX ~~and~~ last.

This chapter contains general stipulations having reference to the administration of the property of the clergy, to public instruction, to promotions, to mortgages, and deeds of gift, and to the principle of nationality and co-citizenship between the inhabitants of the two Principalities.

(In this place the question of the advantages which would result from the reunion of the two Principalities under one Government is also touched upon.)

No. 519.—*DESPATCH* from Count Beust to the Earl of Derby, containing Proposals for the meeting of a European Congress. London, 7th March, 1878.*

[Referred to in Preamble of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**).]

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

My Lord,

IN view of the grave questions to be decided, the Imperial and Royal Government attaches the greatest importance to the meeting, not of a Conference (**No. 516**), but of a Congress, at which the Prime Ministers ("leitende Minister") of the Great Powers should take part. It could scarcely be hoped that a meeting under such conditions could take place at Baden;† but, according to the information which has reached my Government, the choice of Berlin as seat of the Congress would assure its meeting. I have the honour accordingly to withdraw, in the name of the Government of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty, the proposal relating to the meeting of a Conference at Baden, which had been accepted by Her Majesty's Government.

My Government is of opinion that a Congress of the Powers, under the conditions enunciated above, would have the greatest chance of arriving at practical results if this Congress were to meet at Berlin. The Cabinet of Berlin has already declared itself ready to invite the Powers to meet there in Congress as soon as we are in a position to assure it of the adhesion of the other Cabinets. The German Cabinet reserves to itself the right of fixing the date of the meeting.

In bringing the above to the knowledge of your Excellency, I have the honour to request you kindly to enable me to inform my Government, as soon as possible, of the decision arrived at by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,

BEUST.

* For purport of Replies to this and other Despatches on the same subject, see **No. 520**, page 2698, and **No. 523**, page 2721.

No. 520.—*CIRCULAR addressed by the Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies Abroad with reference to the Preliminary Treaty of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey on 3rd March, 1878, and the proposed Meeting of a Congress to deliberate thereupon. Foreign Office, 1st April, 1878.*

My Lord,

Sir,

I HAVE received the Queen's commands to request your Excellency to explain to the Government to which you are accredited the course which Her Majesty's Government have thought it their duty to pursue in reference to the Preliminaries of Peace concluded between the Ottoman and Russian Governments (**No. 518**), and to the European Congress which it has been proposed to hold for the examination of that Treaty (**No. 519**).

On the 14th January, in view of the reports which had reached Her Majesty's Government as to the negotiations for peace which were about to be opened between the Russian Government and the Porte, and in order to avoid any possible misconception, Her Majesty's Government instructed Lord A. Loftus to state to Prince Gortchakow that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, any Treaty concluded between the Government of Russia and the Porte affecting the Treaties of 1856 (**No. 264**) and 1871 (**No. 439**) must be a European Treaty, and would not be valid without the assent of the Powers who were parties to those Treaties (**No. 513**).

On the 25th January the Russian Government replied by the assurance that they did not intend to settle by themselves ("isolément") European questions having reference to the peace which is to be made ("se rattachant à la paix").

Her Majesty's Government, having learnt that the Bases of Peace had been arranged between the Turkish and Russian Delegates at Kyzanlik (**No. 514**), instructed Lord A. Loftus, on the 29th January, to state to the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government, while recognizing any arrangements made by the Russian and Turkish Delegates at Kyzanlik for the conclusion of an Armistice and for the settlement of Bases of Peace as binding between the two belligerents, declared that in so far as those arrangements were calculated to modify European

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Treaties and to affect general and British interests, Her Majesty's Government were unable to recognize in them any validity unless they were made the subject of a formal agreement among the parties to the Treaty of Paris (**No. 264**).

On the 30th January Lord A. Loftus communicated this declaration to Prince Gortchakow, and his Highness replied that to effect an armistice certain Bases of Peace were necessary, but they were only to be considered as Preliminaries and not definitive as regarded Europe; and stated categorically that questions bearing on European interests would be concerted with European Powers, and that he had given Her Majesty's Government clear and positive assurances to this effect.

On the 4th February the Austrian Ambassador communicated a telegram inviting Her Majesty's Government to a Conference at Vienna, and Her Majesty's Government at once accepted the proposal.

On the 5th February his Excellency addressed a formal invitation to Lord Derby (**No. 516**), stating that* :—

“ L'Autriche-Hongrie, en sa qualité de Puissance Signataire des actes internationaux qui ont eu pour objet de régler le système politique en Orient, a toujours réservé, en présence de la guerre actuelle, sa part d'influence sur le règlement définitif des conditions de la paix future.

“ Le Gouvernement Impérial de la Russie, auquel nous avons fait part de ce point de vue, l'a pleinement apprécié.

“ Aujourd'hui que des Préliminaires de Paix viennent d'être signés entre la Russie et la Turquie (**No. 518**) le moment nous semble venu d'établir l'accord de l'Europe sur les modifications qu'il deviendrait nécessaire d'apporter aux Traités susmentionnés.

* Translation :—Austria-Hungary, in her capacity of Signatory Power of the international Acts, the object of which has been to regulate the political system in the East, has always reserved, in presence of the existing war, her share of influence over the definitive regulation of the conditions of the future peace.

The Imperial Government of Russia, to which we have communicated this point of view, has fully appreciated it.

Now that Preliminaries of Peace have just been signed between Russia and Turkey (**No. 518**), the moment appears to us to have come to establish the agreement of Europe on the modifications which it may become necessary to introduce into the above-mentioned Treaties.

The most suitable means to bring about this agreement appears to us the assembly of a Conference of the Powers Signatory of the Treaty of 1856 (**No. 264**), and of the Protocol of London of 1871 (**No. 433**).

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"Le mode le plus apte à amener cette entente nous paraît être la réunion d'une Conférence des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Paris de 1856 (No. 264) et du Protocole de Londres de 1871" (No. 433).

On the 7th March the Austrian Government proposed that instead of the Conference at Baden-Baden as previously contemplated, a Congress should be assembled at Berlin (No. 519). Her Majesty's Government replied that they had no objection to this change, but that they considered "that it would be desirable to have it understood in the first place that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey should be considered as subject to be discussed in the Congress; and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty should be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers."

On the 12th March Count Beust was told that Her Majesty's Government must be perfectly clear on the points mentioned in the letter to him of the 9th instant before they could definitively agree to go into Congress.

On the 13th Her Majesty's Government explained further the first condition:—

"That they must distinctly understand before they can enter into Congress that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what Articles require acceptance or concurrence by the several Powers, and what do not."

On the 14th the Russian Ambassador communicated the following telegram from Prince Gortchakow:—

"Toutes les Grandes Puissances savent déjà que le texte complet du Traité Préliminaire de Paix avec la Porte leur sera communiqué dès que les ratifications auront été échangées, ce qui ne saurait tarder. Il sera simultanément publié ici. Nous n'avons rien à cacher."*

On the 17th Lord A. Loftus reported that he had received the following Memorandum from Prince Gortchakow:—

* Translation:—"All the Great Powers know already that the complete text of the Preliminary Treaty of Peace with the Porte will be communicated to them as soon as the Ratifications, which cannot be delayed, shall have been exchanged. It will be simultaneously published here. We have nothing to conceal."

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"In reply to communication made by Lord A. Loftus of the despatch by which Lord Derby has replied to the proposal of Count Beust relating to the meeting of the Congress at Berlin, I have the honour to repeat the assurance which Count Schouvaloff has been already charged to give to Her Majesty's Government, viz., that the Preliminary Treaty of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey shall be textually communicated to the Great Powers before the meeting of the Congress, and that in the Congress itself each Power will have the full liberty of its appreciations and of its action."

In a despatch received on the 18th Lord A. Loftus stated that Prince Gortchakow had said to him that of course he could not impose silence on any member of the Congress, but he could only accept a discussion on those portions of the Treaty which affected European interests.

Lord Derby having asked Count Schouvaloff for a reply from Prince Gortchakow, his Excellency informed him on the 19th that he was "charged to represent to Her Majesty's Government that the Treaty of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey—the only one which existed, for there was no secret engagement—would be communicated to the Government of the Queen in its entirety, and long before ('bien avant') the assembling of the Congress. The Government of the Queen, in like manner as the other Great Powers, reserved to themselves at the Congress their full liberty of appreciation and action. This same liberty, which she did not dispute to others, Russia claimed for herself. Now, it would be to restrict her, if, alone among all the Powers, Russia contracted a preliminary engagement."

On the 21st Lord Derby replied that Her Majesty's Government could not recede from the position already clearly defined by them, that they must distinctly understand, before they could enter into Congress, that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey would be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it might be considered what Articles required acceptance or concurrence by the other Powers, and what did not.

Her Majesty's Government were unable to accept the view now put forward by Prince Gortchakow, that the freedom of opinion and action in Congress of Russia more than of any other Power, would be restricted by this preliminary understanding.

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Her Majesty's Government therefore desired to ask whether the Government of Russia were willing that the communication of the Treaty *en entier* to the various Powers should be treated as a placing of the Treaty before the Congress, in order that the whole Treaty, in its relation to existing Treaties, might be examined and considered by the Congress.

On the 26th Count Schouvaloff wrote to Lord Derby that the Imperial Cabinet deemed it its duty to adhere to the declaration which he was ordered to make to the Government of the Queen, and which was stated in the letter which he had the honour to address to him dated the 19th March.

As different interpretations had been given to the "liberty of appreciation and action," which Russia thought it right to reserve to herself at the Congress, the Imperial Cabinet defined the meaning of the term in the following manner :—

"It leaves to the other Powers the liberty of raising such questions at the Congress as they might think it fit to discuss, and reserves to itself the liberty of accepting or not accepting the discussion of these questions."

Her Majesty's Government deeply regret the decision which the Russian Government have thus announced.

How far the stipulations of the Treaty of San Stefano would commend themselves as expedient to the judgment of the European Powers, it is not at present possible to decide. But even if a considerable portion of them were such as were likely to be approved, the reservation of a right, at discretion, to refuse to accept a discussion of them in a Congress of the Powers would not on that account be the less open to the most serious objection. An inspection of the Treaty will sufficiently show that Her Majesty's Government could not, in a European Congress, accept any partial or fragmentary examination of its provisions. Every material stipulation which it contains involves a departure from the Treaty of 1856 (**No. 264**).

Inviolability of Treaties.

By the Declaration annexed to the first Protocol of the Conference held in London in 1871 (**No. 433**), the Plenipotentiaries of the Great Powers, including Russia, recognized "that it is an essential principle of the law of nations that no Power can liberate itself from the engagements of a Treaty, nor modify

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the stipulations thereof, unless with the consent of the Contracting Powers by means of an amicable arrangement.”

It is impossible for Her Majesty's Government, without violating the spirit of this Declaration, to acquiesce in the withdrawal from the cognizance of the Powers of Articles in the new Treaty which are modifications of existing Treaty engagements, and inconsistent with them.

The general nature of the Treaty, and the combined effect of its several stipulations upon the interests of the Signatory Powers, furnish another and conclusive reason against the separate discussion of any one portion of those stipulations apart from the rest.

New Bulgaria. Russian influence over.

The most important consequences to which the Treaty practically leads are those which result from its action as a whole upon the nations of South-Eastern Europe. By the Articles erecting the New Bulgaria, a strong Slav State will be created under the auspices and control of Russia, possessing important harbours upon the shores of the Black Sea and the Archipelago, and conferring upon that Power a preponderating influence over both political and commercial relations in those seas. It will be so constituted as to merge in the dominant Slav majority a considerable mass of population which is Greek in race and sympathy, and which views with alarm the prospect of absorption into a community alien to it not only in nationality but in political tendency and in religious allegiance. The provisions by which this new State is to be subjected to a ruler whom Russia will practically choose, its Administration framed by a Russian Commissary, and the first working of its institutions commenced under the control of a Russian army, sufficiently indicate the political system of which in future it is to form a part.

Greece; Epirus and Thessaly.

Stipulations are added which will extend this influence even beyond the boundaries of the New Bulgaria. The provision, in itself highly commendable, of improved institutions for the populations of Thessaly and Epirus, is accompanied by a condition that the law by which they are to be secured shall be framed under the supervision of the Russian Government. It is followed by engagements for the protection of members of the

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Russian Church, which are certainly not more limited in their scope than those Articles of the Treaty of Kainardji,* upon which the claims were founded which were abrogated in 1856. Such stipulations cannot be viewed with satisfaction either by the Government of Greece, or by the Powers to whom all parts of the Ottoman Empire are a matter of common interest. The general effect of this portion of the Treaty will be to increase the power of the Russian Empire in the countries and on the shores where a Greek population predominates, not only to the prejudice of that nation, but also of every country having interests in the east of the Mediterranean Sea.

The territorial severance from Constantinople of the Greek, Albanian, and Slavonic provinces which are still left under the Government of the Porte will cause their administration to be attended with constant difficulty, and even embarrassment; and will not only deprive the Porte of the political strength which might have arisen from their possession, but will expose the inhabitants to a serious risk of anarchy.

Retrocession to Russia of Roumanian Bessarabia. Batoum. Armenia. Trebizond Route.

By the other portions of the Treaty analogous results are arrived at upon other frontiers of the Ottoman Empire. The compulsory alienation of Bessarabia from Roumania, the extension of Bulgaria to the shores of the Black Sea, which are principally inhabited by Mussulmans and Greeks, and the acquisition of the important harbour of Batoum, will make the will of the Russian Government dominant over all the vicinity of the Black Sea. The acquisition of the strongholds of Armenia will place the population of that Province under the immediate influence of the Power which holds them; while the extensive European trade which now passes from Trebizond to Persia will, in consequence of the cessions in Kurdistan, be liable to be arrested at the pleasure of the Russian Government by the prohibitory barriers of their commercial system.

Indemnity to Russia.

Provision is made for an indemnity, of which the amount is obviously beyond the means of Turkey to discharge, even if the

* ^{10th}/_{21st} July, 1774.

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fact be left out of account that any surplus of its revenues is already hypothecated to other creditors. The mode of payment of this indemnity is left, in vague language, to ulterior negotiations between Russia and the Porte. Payment may be demanded immediately, or it may be left as an unredeemed and unredeemable obligation to weigh down the independence of the Porte for many years. Its discharge may be commuted into a yet larger cession of territory, or it may take the form of special engagements, subordinating in all things the policy of Turkey to that of Russia. It is impossible not to recognize in this provision an instrument of formidable efficacy for the coercion of the Ottoman Government, if the necessity for employing it should arise.

Objections may be urged individually against these various stipulations; and arguments, on the other hand, may possibly be advanced to show that they are not individually inconsistent with the attainment of the lasting peace and stability which it is the highest object of all present negotiations to establish in the provinces of European and Asiatic Turkey. But their separate and individual operation, whether defensible or not, is not that which should engage the most earnest attention of the Signatory Powers. Their combined effect, in addition to the results upon the Greek population and upon the balance of maritime power which have been already pointed out, is to depress, almost to the point of entire subjection, the political independence of the Government of Constantinople. The formal jurisdiction of that Government extends over geographical positions which must, under all circumstances, be of the deepest interest to Great Britain. It is in the power of the Ottoman Government to close or to open the Straits which form the natural highway of nations between the *Ægean* Sea and the *Euxine* (No. 439). Its dominion is recognized at the head of the Persian Gulf, on the shores of the Levant, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the Suez Canal. It cannot be otherwise than a matter of extreme solicitude to this country that the Government to which this jurisdiction belongs should be so closely pressed by the political outposts of a greatly superior Power that its independent action, and even existence, is almost impossible. These results arise, not so much from the language of any single Article in the Treaty, as from the operation of the instrument as a whole. A discussion limited to Articles selected by one Power in the Congress would be an illusory remedy for the dangers to English interests and to the

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permanent peace of Europe, which would result from the state of things which the Treaty proposes to establish.

Reform of Turkey under Ottoman Government.

The object of Her Majesty's Government at the Constantinople Conference (**No. 477**) was to give effect to the policy of reforming Turkey under the Ottoman Government, removing well-grounded grievances, and thus preserving the Empire until the time when it might be able to dispense with protective guarantees. It was obvious that this could only be brought about by rendering the different populations so far contented with their position as to inspire them with a spirit of patriotism, and make them ready to defend the Ottoman Empire as loyal subjects of the Sultan.

This policy was frustrated by the unfortunate resistance of the Ottoman Government itself, and, under the altered circumstances of the present time, the same result cannot be attained to the same extent by the same means. Large changes may, and no doubt will, be requisite in the Treaties by which South-Eastern Europe has hitherto been ruled. But good government, assured peace, and freedom, for populations to whom those blessings have been strange, are still the objects which this country earnestly desires to secure.

In requiring a full consideration of the general interests which the new arrangements threaten to affect, Her Majesty's Government believe that they are taking the surest means of securing those objects. They would willingly have entered a Congress in which the stipulations in question could have been examined as a whole, in their relation to existing Treaties, to the acknowledged rights of Great Britain and of other Powers, and to the beneficent ends which the united action of Europe has always been directed to secure. But neither the interests which Her Majesty's Government are specially bound to guard, nor the well-being of the regions with which the Treaty deals, would be consulted by the assembling of a Congress whose deliberations were to be restricted by such reservations as those which have been laid down by Prince Gortchakow in his most recent communication.

Your Excellency will read this despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and give him a copy of it.

I am, &c.,

SALISBURY.

No. 521.—*DESPATCH from Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff, in Reply to British Circular of 1st April, 1878, respecting the Treaty of San Stefano and the proposed Congress. St. Petersburg, ^{28th March}_{9th April}, 1878.**

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LORD A. LOFTUS has communicated to me the Circular addressed by the Marquis of Salisbury to the Great Powers, dated the 1st of April (**No. 520**).

It has been subjected to a careful examination, and we duly recognize the frankness with which it sets forth the views of the Government of Her Britannic Majesty on the Preliminary Treaty of Peace of San Stefano.

We find, however, the objections of the English Cabinet there set forth in great detail, but we have looked in vain for any proposals which it would be disposed to suggest towards a practical solution of the present crisis in the East. The Marquis of Salisbury tells us what the English Government does not desire, but does not tell us what its wishes are. We think it would be useful if his Lordship would be good enough to make this latter point known, with a view to arrive at a clear understanding upon the situation.

As regards the declaration of the views of the Government of Her Britannic Majesty on the subject of the Congress, I can only recall the course which on its side the Imperial Cabinet has followed on this question.

It has officially communicated to the Great Powers the text of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, together with an explanatory map (**No. 518**). We added that at the Congress, if it were to meet, each of the Powers there represented would have full liberty of appreciation and action, claiming the same right for Russia.

We can only reiterate the same declaration.

You will have the goodness to communicate the present despatch, with its annex, to the Government to which you are accredited.

Receive, &c.,

GORTCHAKOW.

* Communicated by Count Schouvaloff to the Marquis of Salisbury, 12th April, 1878.

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ANNEX. *Pro-Memoriâ.*

TABLE.

<i>Bulgaria.</i>	Slav State.
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"	<i>Russian Occupation.</i>
"	<i>Delimitation.</i>
"	<i>Election of Governor. Organization of Principality.</i>
<i>Greek Provinces of Turkey (Epirus and Thessaly).</i>	
<i>Protection of Russian Ecclesiastics or those of Russian Origin.</i>	
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Bulgaria. Slav State.

1. It is not accurate to say that the Treaty of San Stefano (No. 518) has created a new Bulgaria or a strong Slav State under the control of Russia. Bulgaria existed, though in a state of oppression. Europe verified this, and was desirous of providing a remedy. The Constantinople Conference (No. 477) indicated the measures deemed necessary to attain this end. In suggesting these measures the Plenipotentiaries assembled in the Constantinople Conference certainly did not contemplate rendering them inefficacious. It must be admitted that they had in view the endowment of Bulgaria with a national existence and a real administrative autonomy. In such case the Bulgarian State, though divided into two provinces, would have been founded in germ, and this germ, developing itself under the ægis of Europe, would have achieved the result which the Treaty of San Stefano is designed to bring to maturity. The refusal opposed by the Porte, and the war by which it was followed, did not allow, as is admitted by the Marquis of Salisbury himself, of a pure and simple return to the programme of the Conference of Constantinople. The Treaty of San Stefano only makes it obligatory on the Porte to consent to a programme of reforms more complete, more precise, and more practical; but the very fact that the Treaty of San Stefano is a *preliminary* one indicates that in the mind of the Imperial Cabinet it was only a question of laying down a principle, without prejudging

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definitely the application, which required technical study, an exact appreciation of geographical necessities, and the reconciling of numerous interests.

It is for this reason also that many articles are expressed, as it were, in vague terms, leaving room for ulterior understandings as to the modifications deemed indispensable.

Bulgaria. Russian Control.

2. The Treaty of San Stefano has not placed the new State under the control of Russia; the Imperial Cabinet has done only what it had already effected in 1830 for Moldo-Wallachia.* Experience has demonstrated that the work which was accomplished at that period in those Principalities tended to contribute to the prosperity of those provinces. It does not appear to have resulted in a special preponderance of the influence of Russia to the detriment of the balance of power in Europe.

It may be added that if Moldo-Wallachia, which owes its existence to, and borders upon, Russia, has been able to make itself completely independent of her, with yet stronger reason may one count upon the same result for Bulgaria, whose territory would be separated from Russia in the expected eventuality of the cession of the Dobrudscha to Roumania.

Bulgaria. Russian Occupation.

3. The maximum term of two years has been assigned to the provisional occupation of Bulgaria because this lapse of time has been thought necessary in order to maintain order and peace, to protect the Christian and Mussulman populations against reciprocal reprisals, to reorganize the country, and to introduce national institutions, a native militia, &c.; and also because, if the occupation had been indefinite, such an arrangement might have been regarded as a step towards taking possession of the country, which in no way entered into the views of the Imperial Cabinet. But it is needless to say that, this term being approximative, the Imperial Cabinet is quite ready to shorten it as much as may be possible without endangering the success of the difficult task which it is proposed to work out in the interests of general peace.

Bulgaria. Delimitation.

4. The delimitation of Bulgaria has been indicated only in

* See page 2694.

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general terms. The only fixed principle which has been laid down is that of the majority of the population, and surely any principle more equitable and rational can hardly be imagined.

It meets the objections founded on the differences of race of the minority, whose interests, moreover, have been guaranteed by express stipulations. But the application of this principle has been reserved for a Mixed Commission, whose investigations made upon the spot can alone dissipate the doubt and uncertainty which still surround these vexed questions.

Complaint is made that the preliminary delimitation assigns to Bulgaria some ports on the Black Sea, but the Constantinople Conference itself decided that the country could not prosper without outlets on the sea. With regard to the ports on the *Ægean Sea*, the commercial development of Bulgaria has alone been kept in view, and surely it will not be Russia who will principally benefit by this development, but rather England and the Powers whose Mediterranean commerce—much more active than that of Russia—has always been a powerful lever for the maintenance of their political influence.

Bulgaria. Election of Governor. Organization of Principality.

5. The Preliminary Treaty in no way places Bulgaria under the rule of a chief chosen by Russia. It is formally stipulated that the Governor shall be elected by the native Administrative Councils, with the confirmation of the Porte and the assent of Europe, and that members of the reigning dynasties shall not be eligible for the office. One cannot see what better guarantee could be given for the freedom of elections.

As regards the organization of the Principality, it is entrusted to an assembly of native notables. The Russian Imperial Commissioner has only a right of superintendence, to be exercised in concert with an Ottoman Commissioner. Moreover, an understanding between the Great Powers and the Porte is expressly reserved, in order that Special Delegates may be associated with the Russian Commissioner.

Meanwhile, the provisional measures taken by the Russian authorities for the administration of the country are far from being framed with the view, as has been affirmed, of drawing Bulgaria into the Russian political system.

Hardly any change has been made in the existing institutions to which the country is accustomed. Care has only been taken

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that they should be carried out more effectually. The slight alterations which have been introduced are the abolition of the tax for exemption from the military service, the abolition of the tithes and the substitution in their place of a more normal impost, the abolition of the farming of the taxes, which was the source of the principal abuses, and, lastly, the right given to the Christian inhabitants in mixed localities to challenge at election time those Mussulmans who have previously made themselves notorious by acts of fanatical persecution of the Christian population. Moreover, the state of siege to which the country was subjected during the war rendering the nomination of Russian Governors indispensable, Bulgarians have everywhere been associated with them as Vice-Governors, so that after the peace, as tranquillity becomes gradually restored in the country, these Vice-Governors may be able to replace the Russian Governors without causing any interruption in the regular course of the administration of the country.

The exclusive object of all these provisional measures has been to protect the national development, and to render possible the meeting of the first Bulgarian Assembly called together to regulate the institutions of the Principality.

Greek Provinces of Turkey (Epirus and Thessaly).

6. The assertion that the Treaty of San Stefano would have extended the influence of Russia beyond the limits of Bulgaria, in that it stipulates for improvements in their institutions for Epirus and Thessaly, affords some reason for astonishment.

If Russia had made no stipulation in favour of those provinces, she would have been accused of sacrificing the Greeks to the Slavs.

If she had sought to obtain for them the vassal autonomy which is condemned in Bulgaria, she would have been accused of entirely destroying the Ottoman Empire, and of substituting Russian influence there in its place. The Imperial Cabinet has always understood the protecting mission which history has assigned to it in the East from a Christian point of view, without regard to race or creed; if it has stipulated for conditions more complete and more precise in favour of Bulgaria, it has been because that country had been the principal cause and theatre of the war, and that Russia had acquired there positive

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belligerent rights. But in limiting itself to stipulating for ameliorated institutions for the Greek provinces, it reserved to the Great Powers the faculty of demanding still more extended ones.

It is equally inaccurate that the Treaty of San Stefano stipulated that these institutions should be drawn up under the direction of Russia. The general type to which they have been assimilated by the Treaty is that of the Cretan Règlement, which was granted by the Porte under the influence of the Great Powers.* The Treaty stipulates that its application is to be made by a special Commission, upon which the native element shall be largely represented. It obliges the Porte, it is true, to *consult* Russia before putting it in execution, but it does not interdict the Porte from equally consulting the Representatives of the friendly Powers.

Protection of Russian Ecclesiastics, or those of Russian Origin.

7. The subsequent clause, concerning the protection of the members of the Russian Church, must have been greatly misunderstood to be compared to that in the Treaty of Kainardji, abolished in 1856. The clause of Kainardji concerned the *Orthodox Greek religion*, and might include all the Christian subjects of the Sultan who professed that creed. The Treaty of San Stefano mentions exclusively monks, ecclesiastics, and pilgrims who are *Russian or of Russian origin*, and only stipulates for them the rights, advantages, and privileges belonging to the ecclesiastics of other nationalities.

From all this it is impossible to regard as well-founded the assertion that the general tendency of these stipulations of San Stefano is of such a nature “*as to increase the power of the Russian Empire in the countries where a Greek population predominates to the prejudice of that nation and of every country having interests in the east of the Mediterranean.*”

Roumanian Bessarabia. Bulgarian Extension. Batoum.

8. Equal evidence, at any rate, of exaggeration may be found in the assertion that the general tendency of the stipulations of San Stefano as to the retrocession of Roumanian Bessarabia, the extension of Bulgaria up to the Black Sea, and the acquisition of the Port of Batoum, will render the will of Russia predominant throughout the vicinity of the Black Sea.

* See page 2685.

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Russia has powerfully contributed in the past to emancipate Greece and Roumania.

It is not apparent that she has thereby acquired greater advantages than the other Powers. The retrocession of Roumanian Bessarabia would be only a return to an order of things modified twenty-two years ago for reasons which have no longer a *raison d'être*, nor legal title, nor even pretext, since the freedom of the navigation of the Danube has been placed under the control and guarantee of an International Commission, and especially from the moment when Roumania proclaims her independence and Europe seems disposed to recognize it.

Delta of the Danube.

It must be remarked besides that this retrocession does not include all the part of Bessarabia ceded in 1856. The Delta of the Danube is excluded from it, and the project of the Russian Government is to restore it to Roumania, from which it was taken in 1857. This circumstance reduces considerably the importance of the retrocession which has been asked for in connection with the control over the navigation of the mouths of the Danube.

Batoum.

9. Batoum is the only good port in these parts. It is of great importance for the commerce and security of Russia. It is the only positive advantage that Russia derives from a war which she has carried on alone, and which has cost her so much. It is, then, in no way a gratuitous cession, and is far from being an equivalent for the *pecuniary* indemnity which it would represent.

Armenia. Rectification of Frontiers in Asia. Russian Acquisitions. Kars, &c.

10. As to the acquisitions in Armenia, they only possess a defensive value. It is possible that England would prefer to see these strong positions in the hands of the Turks; but from the same motives Russia sets a value upon the possession of them for the sake of her own security, so as not to have to lay siege to them in each war, as in the case of the fortress of Kars, which she has been obliged to take three times within the space of half a century.

These territorial cessions are a natural consequence of war.

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If England had wished to save Turkey from them she had only to join with Russia, as was proposed to her on two separate occasions—first at the time of the Berlin Memorandum (No. 461), and subsequently on the occasion of the mission of Count Elston Soumarokoff to Vienna, in order to put a united maritime pressure on the Porte, which would probably have sufficed to obtain the ends now acquired at the cost of so much bloodshed.

The English Government, having refused this, has no ground for denying to Russia, who has shed her blood, the right of demanding the creation of a state of things which shall relieve her henceforward from such sacrifices, or render them less onerous.

Trebizond Route.

But what it is impossible to understand are the consequences to the freedom of European trade from Trebizond, through Persia, which it is endeavoured to deduce from these rectifications of frontier.

These assertions are in contradiction to those put forward on more than one occasion by various members of the British Cabinet, according to which the taking possession even of Erzeroum and of Trebizond by Russia would not constitute a danger to English interests. The rectifications of frontier in Asia, stipulated by the Treaty of San Stefano, are very far from approaching this extension. It is carrying distrust to an extreme to affirm that they would place Russia "*in a position to impede by prohibitive obstacles the commercial system of Europe.*"

Russian Indemnity.

11. The objections taken to the Treaty of San Stefano in regard to the indemnity claimed from Turkey are not better founded. Assuredly the amount of this indemnity is out of all proportion to the overwhelming charges which the war has entailed upon Russia. It may be that they exceed the actual resources of Turkey, and increase her difficulty in satisfying the claims of her creditors. But it is to be noted that Turkey failed in her obligations towards her foreign creditors long before the war, in consequence of the disorder caused by her maladministration. It is allowable to believe that if peace is re-established upon the rational bases which the Treaty of San Stefano has in view, and to which the sanction of Europe would give a solid

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and lasting character, it would result, as far as Turkey herself is concerned, in a diminution of her expenses and an augmentation of her resources, which would enable her to meet the exigencies of her foreign debt.

It is in view of these possible results that the stipulations of San Stefano which relate to the indemnity have been retained in the vague terms which have been made the subject of reproach.

If the amount of the indemnity is criticised as being too high, the demand for an immediate payment would have been criticised still more severely. If the precise manner of payment had been stipulated, it would have been necessary to encroach upon a region already mortgaged to the foreign creditors of the Porte; and it is this that the Treaty of San Stefano has sought to avoid by reserving the question for a subsequent understanding. It is true that by this precaution it is exposed to the suspicion of *seeking to paralyze or to dominate over Turkey for several years, or of meditating new territorial acquisitions as a substitute for the indemnity.*

It would have been more natural to have seen in this stipulation a desire to respect both the interests of Turkey and of Europe, and to support the Turkish Government in the fulfilment of its engagements and of pacific relationships which would be profitable to all. But against mistrust there is no remedy.

Amelioration of Condition of Populations in Turkey.

12. From the conclusion of the Marquis of Salisbury's despatch it is learnt with pleasure that "the object and earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government are still to secure good government, peace, and freedom for the populations to whom these blessings have been strange."

With equal satisfaction is seen the frank avowal that "this policy has been frustrated by the unfortunate resistance of the Ottoman Government itself; that in view of the modified circumstances of the present time the same result cannot be obtained to the same extent by the same means—that is to say, by the programme of the Conference of Constantinople (No. 477)—and that great changes may and without doubt will be necessary in the Treaties by which the south-east of Europe has up to the present time been governed."

If to these considerations be added the fact that the reiterated refusals of the English Government to join in exercising a col-

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lective material pressure on the Porte has prevented Europe from obtaining pacifically the results desired by the Cabinet of London itself, it must be recognized that the war and the peace of San Stefano have answered to the exigencies of the situation which the Marquis of Salisbury has set forth with great frankness and so much high-mindedness.

Infringement of Treaties.

This situation may be summed up thus:—The existing Treaties have been successively infringed for twenty-two years, —first by the Turkish Government, which has not fulfilled its obligations towards the Christians; then by the United Principalities; by the French occupation of Syria; and by the Conference of Constantinople itself, which constituted an interference in the interior affairs of the Ottoman Empire; and last of all by the entry of the English fleet into the Straits; on the other hand, the Marquis of Salisbury himself recognizes that great changes can and must be made under the present circumstances.

It remains for us to learn how his Lordship proposes to reconcile practically *these Treaties and the recognized rights of Great Britain and other Powers with the benevolent designs towards a realization of which the united action of Europe has always been directed, viz., a good government, peace, and assured liberty for the populations to whom these blessings have been strange.*

It remains also to be learnt how, outside the preliminary bases laid down by the Treaty of San Stefano, his Lordship proposes to attain the end desired by all, while making proper allowance for the rights acquired by Russia, through the sacrifices which she has borne, and borne alone, in order to render their realization possible.

The despatch of the Marquis of Salisbury contains no answer to these questions. For these reasons it appears that the considerations which it contains would have found their place more naturally in the Congress, where the Plenipotentiaries, having all of them a full and entire liberty of appreciation and action, would have been in a position to draw up along with their objections any practical propositions of a character to ensure an understanding for the solution of the present difficulties in the general interest of a solid and lasting pacification of the East.

No. 522.—*DESPATCH from the Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard (British Ambassador at Constantinople), respecting Russian Annexations in Asiatic Turkey, and containing proposals for a conditional Alliance with Turkey. London, 30th May, 1878.*

Sir,

THE progress of the confidential negotiations which have for some time past been in progress between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Russia make it probable that those Articles of the Treaty of San Stefano (**No. 518**) containing proposals for an alliance with Turkey, which concern European Turkey will be sufficiently modified to bring them into harmony with the interests of the other European Powers, and of England in particular.

There is, however, no such prospect with respect to that portion of the Treaty which concerns Turkey in Asia. It is sufficiently manifest that, in respect to Batoum and the fortresses north of the Araxes, the Government of Russia is not prepared to recede from the stipulations to which the Porte has been led by the events of the war to consent. Her Majesty's Government have consequently been forced to consider the effect which these agreements, if they are neither annulled nor counteracted, will have upon the future of the Asiatic provinces of the Ottoman Empire and upon the interests of England, which are closely affected by the condition of those provinces.

It is impossible that Her Majesty's Government can look upon these changes with indifference. Asiatic Turkey contains populations of many different races and creeds, possessing no capacity for self-government and no aspirations for independence, but owing their tranquillity and whatever prospect of political well-being they possess entirely to the rule of the Sultan. But the Government of the Ottoman dynasty is that of an ancient but still alien conqueror, resting more upon actual power than upon the sympathies of common nationality. The defeat which the Turkish arms have sustained and the known embarrassments of the Government will produce a general belief in its decadence and an expectation of speedy political change, which in the East are more dangerous than actual discontent to the stability of a

[Batoum, Ardahan, Kars, Cyprus. Reforms.]

Government. If the population of Syria, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia see that the Porte has no guarantee for its continued existence but its own strength, they will, after the evidence which recent events have furnished of the frailty of that reliance, begin to calculate upon the speedy fall of the Ottoman domination, and to turn their eyes towards its successor.

Batoum, Ardahan, Kars.

Even if it be certain that Batoum and Ardahan and Kars will not become the base from which emissaries of intrigue will issue forth, to be in due time followed by invading armies, the mere retention of them by Russia will exercise a powerful influence in disintegrating the Asiatic dominion of the Porte. As a monument of feeble defence on the one side, and successful aggression on the other, they will be regarded by the Asiatic population as foreboding the course of political history in the immediate future, and will stimulate, by the combined action of hope and fear, devotion to the Power which is in the ascendant, and desertion of the Power which is thought to be falling into decay.

It is impossible for Her Majesty's Government to accept, without making an effort to avert it, the effect which such a state of feeling would produce upon regions whose political condition deeply concerns the Oriental interests of Great Britain. They do not propose to attempt the accomplishment of this object by taking military measures for the purpose of replacing the conquered districts in the possession of the Porte. Such an undertaking would be arduous and costly, and would involve great calamities, and it would not be effective for the object which Her Majesty's Government have in view, unless subsequently strengthened by precautions which can be taken almost as effectually without incurring the miseries of a preliminary war. The only provision which can furnish a substantial security for the stability of Ottoman rule in Asiatic Turkey, and which would be as essential after the re-conquest of the Russian annexations as it is now, is an engagement on the part of a Power strong enough to fulfil it, that any further encroachments by Russia upon Turkish territory in Asia will be prevented by force of arms. Such an undertaking, if given fully and unreservedly, will prevent the occurrence of the contingency which would bring it into operation, and will, at the same time, give

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to the populations of the Asiatic provinces the requisite confidence that Turkish rule in Asia is not destined to a speedy fall.

There are, however, two conditions which it would be necessary for the Porte to subscribe before England could give such assurance.

Reforms in Asiatic Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government intimated to the Porte, on the occasion of the Conference at Constantinople, that they were not prepared to sanction misgovernment and oppression, and it will be requisite, before they can enter into any agreement for the defence of the Asiatic territories of the Porte in certain eventualities, that they should be formally assured of the intention of the Porte to introduce the necessary Reforms into the government of the Christian and other subjects of the Porte in these regions. It is not desirable to require more than an engagement in general terms; for the specific measures to be taken could only be defined after a more careful inquiry and deliberation than could be secured at the present juncture.

It is not impossible that a careful selection and a faithful support of the individual officers to whom power is to be entrusted in those countries would be a more important element in the improvement of the condition of the people than even legislative changes, but the assurance required to give England a right to insist on satisfactory arrangements for these purposes will be an indispensable part of any agreement to which Her Majesty's Government could consent.

Cyprus.

It will further be necessary, in order to enable Her Majesty's Government efficiently to execute the engagements now proposed, that they should occupy a position near the coast of Asia Minor and Syria. The proximity of British officers, and, if necessary, British troops, will be the best security that all the objects of this agreement shall be attained. The Island of Cyprus appears to them to be in all respects the most available for this object. Her Majesty's Government do not wish to ask the Sultan to alienate territory from his sovereignty, or to diminish the receipts which now pass into his Treasury. They will, therefore, propose that, while the administration and occupation of the island shall be

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assigned to Her Majesty, the territory shall still continue to be part of the Ottoman Empire, and that the excess of the revenue over the expenditure, whatever it at present may be, shall be paid over annually by the British Government to the Treasury of the Sultan.

Inasmuch as the whole of this proposal is due to the annexations which Russia has made in Asiatic Turkey, and the consequences which it is apprehended will flow therefrom, it must be fully understood that if the cause of the danger should cease, the precautionary agreement will cease at the same time. If the Government of Russia should at any time surrender to the Porte the territory it has acquired in Asia by the recent war, the stipulations in the proposed agreements will cease to operate, and the island will be immediately evacuated.

Proposed Convention.

I request, therefore, your Excellency to propose to the Porte to agree to a Convention to the following effect, and I have to convey to you full authority to conclude the same on behalf of the Queen and of Her Majesty's Government:—

“If Batoum, Ardahan, Kars, or any of them shall be retained by Russia, and if any attempt shall be made at any future time by Russia to take possession of any further portion of the Asiatic territories of the Sultan, as fixed by the definitive Treaty of Peace, England engages to join the Sultan in defending them by force of arms. In return, the Sultan promises to England to introduce necessary Reforms (to be agreed upon later between the two Powers) into the government of the Christian and other subjects of the Porte in these territories; and, in order to enable England to make necessary provision for executing her engagement, the Sultan further consents to assign the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England.”*

I am, &c.,

SALISBURY.

* See Convention, 4th June, 1878 (No. 524).

No. 523.—*DESPATCH from Count Münster to the Marquis of Salisbury, inviting the Powers Parties to the Treaties of 1856 and 1871 to meet in Congress at Berlin to discuss the Stipulations of the Preliminary Treaty between Russia and Turkey, signed at San Stefano on the 3rd March, 1878. London, 3rd June, 1878.*

[Referred to in Treaty of Berlin of 13th July, 1878, **No. 530.**]

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

THE Undersigned, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia, has the honour, by order of his Government, to convey to the knowledge of his Excellency the Marquis of Salisbury, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the following communication:—

In conformity with the initiative taken by the Austro-Hungarian Cabinet (**No. 519**), the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany has the honour to propose to the Powers signatories of the Treaties of 1856 (**No. 264**) and 1871 (**No. 439**) to meet in Congress at Berlin, to discuss there the stipulations of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano concluded between Russia and Turkey (**No. 518**).

The Government of His Majesty, in giving this invitation to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, understands that in accepting it, the Government of Her Britannic Majesty consents to admit the free discussion of the whole of the contents of the Treaty of San Stefano, and that it is ready to participate therein.

In the event of the acceptance of all the Powers invited, the Government of His Majesty propose to fix the meeting of the Congress for the 13th of this month.

The Undersigned, in bringing the above to the knowledge of his Excellency the Marquis of Salisbury, has the honour to beg his Excellency to be good enough to acquaint him as soon as possible with the reply of the British Government.*

The Undersigned, &c.

MÜNSTER.

* This Invitation was accepted by the British Government on the same day

No. 524.—*CONVENTION of Defensive Alliance between Great Britain and Turkey, with respect to the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey. Signed at Constantinople, 4th June, 1878.*

ART.

TABLE.

Preamble.

1. Engagement of *Great Britain* to join *Turkey* in event of *Russia* retaining *Batoum, Ardahan, or Kars*, and making any attempt to take further Territories in *Asia*.

Engagement of Sultan, in return, to introduce Reforms in Government, and for Protection of Christian and other Subjects of the Porte, in *Asia*.

Occupation and Administration of *Cyprus* by *Great Britain*.]

2. Ratifications.

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, being mutually animated with the sincere desire of extending and strengthening the relations of friendship happily existing between their two Empires, have resolved upon the conclusion of a Convention of Defensive Alliance with the object of securing for the future the territories in Asia of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

Their Majesties have accordingly chosen and named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the Right Honourable Austen Henry Layard, Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Sublime Porte ;

And His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, his Excellency Safvet Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty ;

Who, after having exchanged their full powers, found in due and good form, have agreed upon the following Articles :—

Engagement of Great Britain to join Turkey in event of Russia retaining Batoum, Ardahan, or Kars, and making any attempt to take further Territories in Asia.

ART. I. If Batoum, Ardahan, Kars, or any of them shall be retained by Russia, and if any attempt shall be made at any

[Batoum, Ardahan, Kars, Cyprus. Reforms in Asia.]

future time by Russia to take possession of any further territories of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in Asia, as fixed by the Definitive Treaty of Peace,* England engages to join His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in defending them by force of arms.

Engagement of Sultan, in return, to introduce Reforms in Government, and for Protection of Christian and other Subjects of the Porte, in Asia.

In return, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan promises to England to introduce necessary Reforms, to be agreed upon later between the two Powers, into the government, and for the protection of the Christian and other subjects of the Porte in these territories.

Occupation and Administration of Cyprus by Great Britain.

And in order to enable England to make necessary provision for executing her engagement, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan further consents to assign the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England.†

Ratifications.

ART. II. The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged, within the space of one month, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Constantinople, the fourth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

(L.S.) A. H. LAYARD.

(L.S.) SAFVET.

* The Definitive Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey was signed on the 8th February, 1879 (No. 542). See also Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530.)

† See also Annex, 1st July, 1878 (No. 525).

No. 525.—*ANNEX TO CONVENTION of Defensive Alliance between Great Britain and Turkey, of 4th June, 1878. Conditions of British Occupation and Administration of Cyprus. Signed at Constantinople, 1st July, 1878.**

TABLE.

Conditions of British Occupation and Administration of *Cyprus*.

Mussulman Religious Tribunal.

Superintendence and Administration of Mussulman Schools and other religious establishments in *Cyprus*.

Excess of Revenue over Expenditure to be paid by *England* to *Turkey*.

Power reserved to Porte to Sell and Lease Lands and other Property of the Crown and State in *Cyprus*.

Purchase of Land by *English* Government.

Conditions of Evacuation of *Cyprus* by *Great Britain*.

THE Right Honourable Sir A. H. Layard, G.C.B., and his Highness Safvet Pasha, now the Grand Vizier of His Majesty the Sultan, have agreed to the following Annex to the Convention signed by them as Plenipotentiaries of their respective Governments on the 4th June, 1878 (No. 524) :—

Conditions of Occupation and Administration of Cyprus.

It is understood between the two High Contracting Parties that England agrees to the following conditions relating to her occupation and administration of the Island of Cyprus :—

Mussulman Religious Tribunal.

I. That a Mussulman religious Tribunal (Mehkéméi Shéri) shall continue to exist in the island, which will take exclusive cognizance of religious matters, and of no others, concerning the Mussulman population of the island.

Superintendence and Administration of Mussulman Schools and other Religious Establishments in Cyprus.

II. That a Mussulman resident in the island shall be named by the Board of Pious Foundations in Turkey (Evkraf) to superintend, in conjunction with a Delegate to be appointed by the British Authorities, the administration of the property, funds,

* See also Agreement of 14th August, 1878 (No. 532).

[British Administration of Cyprus.]

and lands belonging to mosques, cemeteries, Mussulman schools, and other religious establishments existing in Cyprus.

*Excess of Revenue over Expenditure to be paid by England to Turkey.**

III. That England will pay to the Porte whatever is the present excess of revenue over expenditure in the island; this excess to be calculated upon and determined by the average of the last five years, stated to be 22,936 purses, to be duly verified hereafter, and to the exclusion of the produce of State and Crown lands let or sold during that period.

Power reserved to Porte to Sell and Lease Lands and other Property of the Crown and State in Cyprus.

IV.* That the Sublime Porte may freely sell and lease lands and other property in Cyprus belonging to the Ottoman Crown and State (Arazii Miriyé vé Emlaki Houmayoun) the produce of which does not form part of the revenue of the island referred to in Article III.

Purchase of Land by English Government.

V. That the English Government, through their competent authorities, may purchase compulsorily, at a fair price, land required for public improvements, or for other public purposes, and land which is not cultivated.

Conditions of Evacuation of Cyprus by Great Britain.

VI. That if Russia restores to Turkey Kars and the other conquests made by her in Armenia during the last war, the Island of Cyprus will be evacuated by England, and the Convention of the 4th of June, 1878 (No. 524), will be at an end.

Done at Constantinople, the 1st day of July, 1878.

A. H. LAYARD.
SAFVET.

* See also Agreement of 3rd February, 1879 (No. 541).

No. 526.—*PROTOCOL of Congress of Berlin, on the suggested Rectification of the Greek Frontier (Epirus and Thessaly), and the proposed Mediation of the Treaty Powers. 5th July, 1878.**

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(Protocol No. 13. Extract.)

THE First French Plenipotentiary has thought it of use to trace, as a basis for negotiations, a general line, indicating, at one and the same time, to Turkey, the measure of the intentions of Europe, and to Greece, the limits beyond which she cannot be allowed to go. Such is the object of the following resolution which he has the honour to submit, in common with the First Plenipotentiary of Italy, to the deliberations of the Congress:—

“ The Congress invites the Sublime Porte to arrange with Greece for a rectification of frontiers in Thessaly and Epirus, and is of opinion that this rectification might follow the Valley of the Salamyrias (the ancient Peneus) on the side of the Ægean Sea, and that of the Calamas on the side of the Ionian Sea.

“ The Congress is confident that the interested parties will succeed in coming to an agreement. At the same time, to facilitate the success of the negotiations, the Powers are prepared to offer their direct mediation to the two parties.”

* * * * *

The proposal of the French and Italian Plenipotentiaries having been submitted to the vote of the High Assembly, Carathéodory Pasha declares that he has no knowledge of the assent of his Government to the proposals of rectification which might have been previously made to it. He consequently thinks it his duty entirely to reserve the opinion of the Sublime Porte upon this point.

The President says that in the present circumstances the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries are justified in abstaining and waiting for fresh instructions. His Serene Highness declares in addition that the Powers, with the exception of the Porte, whose assent is reserved, are unanimous in accepting the proposition.

* See also page 2749. For the entire Protocol, in the French language, see “State Papers,” Vol. 69, page 1015. See also Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXIV, page 2779.

No. 527.—*DECLARATIONS made by the British and Russian Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin, respecting the Straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus. 11th and 12th July, 1878.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

(1.)

British Declaration.

Extract from Protocol, 11th July, 1878.

WITH regard to the paragraph relating to the Treaties of Paris and London, Lord Salisbury remarks that at first sight, at a preceding sitting, he had stated that he was not satisfied with the wording of this Article. These apprehensions are now partly set at rest by the explanations offered to the Congress: his Excellency confines himself to-day to asking that the following Declaration, which is binding only on his Government, may be inserted in the Protocol:—

“Considering that the Treaty of Berlin will modify an important part of the arrangements sanctioned by the Treaty of Paris of 1856 (**No. 264**), and that the interpretation of Article II of the Treaty of London (**No. 439**), which is dependent on the Treaty of Paris, may thus become a matter of dispute;

“I declare on behalf of England that the obligations of Her Britannic Majesty relating to the closing of the Straits do not go further than an engagement with the Sultan to respect in this matter His Majesty’s independent determinations in conformity with the spirit of existing Treaties.”

Count Schouvaloff reserves the right of inserting in the Protocol a counter-declaration, if necessary.

(2.)

Russian Declaration.

Extract from Protocol 12th July, 1878.

Count Schouvaloff, referring to the Declaration made in the preceding sitting by Lord Salisbury, on the subject of the

Straits, demands the insertion in the Protocol of a Declaration on the same subject presented by the Plenipotentiaries of Russia:—

“The Plenipotentiaries of Russia, without being able exactly to appreciate the meaning of the proposition of the Second Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, respecting the closing of the Straits, restrict themselves to demanding, on their part, the insertion in the Protocol of the observation: that, in their opinion, the principle of the closing of the Straits is an European principle, and that the stipulations concluded in this respect in 1841 (**No. 193**), 1856 (**No. 264**), and 1871 (**No. 439**), confirmed at present by the Treaty of Berlin, are binding on the part of all the Powers, in accordance with the spirit and letter of the existing Treaties, not only as regards the Sultan but also as regards all the Powers signatory to these transactions.”



No. 528.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONGRESS of the Representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey; for the Settlement of Affairs in the East. Berlin, June, July, 1878.**

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* For the entire Protocols, in the French language, *see* “State Papers,” Vol. 69, page 862.

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Abstract of Protocols.

PROTOCOL No. 1, 13th June, 1878.*

Presidency. President: Prince Bismarck. Appointment of Secretaries.

Archives. Presentation of Full Powers, except those of *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries. Speech of President; object in assembling the Congress; Christian Populations of *Turkey*; free discussion of Treaty of *San Stefano*; course of Procedure.

Proposals, &c., in Writing. *Bulgaria*; main question. To be first discussed.

Delimitation and Organization of *Bulgaria*. Secrecy of Deliberations.

Speech of Lord Beaconsfield:—*Russian* Troops near *Constantinople*.

Dangers arising from position, they having advanced beyond the Line fixed by the Armistice. Possible Capture of *Constantinople*. Observations of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries:—Object of *Russia* to secure Amelioration of Condition of Christian Subjects of the *Porte*:—Movements of *Russian* Army and *British* Fleet. Observations of President and *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries.

Greece. Notice of Lord Salisbury to submit Question of Admission of *Greek* Representatives at next Sitting. Observations of *Russian* and *French* Plenipotentiaries and President as to course of Procedure in bringing forward Questions of this kind. Resolutions of Majority to rule on Substantive Proposals which do not touch Vital Points, but Minority at liberty to record their Protests. (Voting.)

* For the entire Protocols in the French language see "State Papers," Vol. 69, page 862.

PROTOCOL No. 2, 17th June, 1878.

Presentation of Full Powers of *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries. Cause of delay. Protocols will be printed and communicated to Plenipotentiaries, but not read in full at Sittings, but only alterations made therein. Arrangements respecting Petitions, &c., addressed to Congress and to President.

Greece. Lord Salisbury's Proposal that *Greek* Representatives should take part in deliberations of the Congress, or at least to assist at all sittings in which Questions in connection with the Interests of the *Greek* race shall be discussed. Observations of President and Prince Gortchakow thereon.

„ Counter-Proposal of *French* Plenipotentiaries :—That *Greek* Representatives be Admitted when question arises of determining the future of the border Provinces of the Kingdom (*Epirus* and *Thessaly*) and summoned into Congress when deemed advisable by the Plenipotentiaries. Discussion adjourned to next sitting.

Bulgaria. Order of the Day. (Art. VI of Treaty of *San Stefano*.) Speech of Lord Salisbury :—Effect of Treaty would be to reduce *Turkey* to dependency on *Russia*. Duty of Congress to give *Turkey* back her Independence. Proposed Limits of *Bulgaria*.

„ Proposals to be examined :—I. *Bulgaria* to be a Tributary autonomous Principality restricted to the North of the *Balkans*. II. Province of *Roumelia* and all other *Turkish* Territory South of the *Balkans* to be under direct Political and Military authority of Sultan; sufficient guarantee being given for protection of welfare of the Population.

„ Observations of Count Schouvaloff thereon; who remarks that *Russia* entered Congress with a view to harmonize Preliminary Treaty of *San Stefano* with General Interests of *Europe*, but not to “annihilate” the results of a War in which she had imposed upon herself so many Sacrifices.

„ Prince Bismarck asks intentions of *Great Britain* with regard to Government of *Bulgaria*. Lord Salisbury's Reply. Prince Bismarck suggests Private Meetings of *Russian* and *English* Plenipotentiaries. Agreed to, with addition of *Austrian* Plenipotentiaries. Count Andrassy adheres generally to *English* Proposals respecting Frontiers, which are declared to be very important for *Austria*,

PROTOCOL No. 3, 19th June, 1878.

Observations of President on anonymous Petitions.

Order of the Day. 1. Admission of Representatives of *Greece*. 2. *Bulgaria*. *Bulgarian* Question adjourned.

Greece. *English* and *French* Proposals respecting admission of *Greek* Representatives. *Germany* supports *French* Proposal. Objection of *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries.

- Greece.* Views of *Russia*. Observations of Prince Gortchakow. *Russian* Plenipotentiaries adhere to *French* Proposal respecting admission of *Greek* Representatives (*Epirus* and *Thessaly* and *Crete*).
- „ Lord Salisbury proposes to substitute the words “*Greek Provinces*” for “border Provinces of the Kingdom of *Greece*” (*Macedonia*, *Thrace*, and *Crete*).
- „ *French* Text voted.
- „ *English* Amendment discussed. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries abstain from Voting. Votes *pro* and *con* equal. *French* Text therefore stands (for Text see Protocol No. 2, p. 2736).

PROTOCOL No. 4, 22nd June, 1878.

Order of the Day. (Art. VI of Treaty of *San Stefano*).

Prince Gortchakow absent from Ill-health.

- Bulgaria.* Lord Salisbury's proposals: *Balkan* Frontier for Principality. Province South of the *Balkans* to be called *Eastern Roumelia*. Sandjak of *Sofia*, with Strategic Rectification of Frontiers, to go to *Bulgaria*, either in consideration of retention of *Varna* by the *Turks*, or the exclusion of the Basins of *Mesta Karasou* and *Strouma Karasou* from *Eastern Roumelia*. Direct Military and Political Authority of Sultan in *Eastern Roumelia*. Right of Sultan to defend its Land and Sea Frontiers. Militia to maintain internal Order. Appointment of Officers. Religion. Employment of *Turkish* Troops. Fortifications.
- „ Western Frontier of *Roumelia* remains to be described.
- „ Southern Frontier of *Roumelia* described. To be traced by a European Commission, with exception of Two Points touching *Black Sea*, which have not yet been decided upon.
- „ Count Schouvaloff's observations. Proposed Amendments:—(1.) As to employment of Native Militia: A European Commission should determine Places to be occupied and strength of Forces; and (2.) As to determination by Congress when and how *Turkish* Troops may be called in.
- „ Speech of Lord Beaconsfield. Sovereign Rights of Sultan secured by giving to his Majesty:—I. A real Frontier. II. Sufficient Military and Political Power. Objections to *Russian* Amendments:—I. As to *European* Commission. II. As to Limitation of number of Troops to be employed, the Time when and Places where to be employed. Count Andrassy adheres to *English* view.
- „ Distinction between Gendarmerie and Militia.
- „ *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries postpone making any observations.
- „ Prince Bismarck adheres to *Russia's* proposal.
- „ Adoption of *English* proposals; subject to consideration of *Russian* Amendments at a subsequent Meeting.

Bulgaria. Sandjak of *Sofia*. Statement of Prince Bismarck. *Russian* Plenipotentiaries decline to give *Varna* in exchange for Sandjak of *Sofia*, but agree to plan of Exchange of Sandjak of *Sofia* for Rectification of Western Frontier.

„ M. Waddington to prepare Draft of an Agreement.

PROTOCOL No. 5, 24th June, 1878.

Continued absence of Prince Gortchakow from Ill-health.

Bulgaria. Sandjak of *Sofia*. Views of Lord Salisbury as to application of wording of Protocol, “the Sandjak of *Sofia* with strategical rectification of the Frontiers,” to part only of Sandjak, which lies in basin of River Iskra. Reply of Count Schouvaloff.

Greece. Discussion as to admission of Representative of *Greece* at the Congress.

Order of the Day. (Art. VI of Treaty of *San Stefano*) :—

Bulgaria and *Eastern Roumelia*. Additional Articles prepared by *French* Plenipotentiaries. Civil and Religious liberty and equality in *Bulgaria* and *Eastern Roumelia*.

„ Additional Article proposed by *Austrian*, *French*, and *Italian* Plenipotentiaries :—Maintenance in *Bulgaria* and *Eastern Roumelia* of Commercial Treaties between the Porte and Foreign Powers. Non-alteration therein of Clauses without consent. Non-Imposition of Transit Dues.

„ Equality of Treatment to Subjects and Commerce. Privileges ; Immunities ; Consular Jurisdiction and Protection, in accordance with Capitulations and Usage. Further Discussion reserved. Future Organisation.

Art. IX of Treaty of *San Stefano* :—Proposal of *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries that, in addition to the Tribute, the Principality should pay part of the Debts of the Empire in proportion to its Revenues. Discussion deferred.

Art. VII of Treaty of *San Stefano*. § 1. Election of Prince by the People and Confirmation by the Porte with consent of the Powers. Proceedings of Congress thereon. Observations of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries as to necessity of unanimity and not majority among its Members, and Discussion on possible want of unanimity among the Powers as to the Person to be elected Prince. Proposal of Lord Salisbury to substitute the words “Majority of the Powers” for that of “Assent.”

Bulgaria. Proposition of *Austrian* Plenipotentiaries :—That the Functions assigned, by different Articles of the Treaty of *San Stefano*, concerning *Bulgaria*, to *Russian* Commissions or Commissioners, or *Russian* or *Ottoman*, be transferred to *European* Commissions or Commissioners. Further discussion postponed.

„ Duties of Congress. Observations of the President, as to Revision of Treaty of *San Stefano* or Conclusion of a new Treaty. Proposal to

discuss only those Articles of Treaty of *San Stefano* which have an *European* Interest.

Bulgaria. Explanation of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries that the arrangement for the assembly of *Bulgarian* Notables at *Philippopolis* under Art. VII of the Treaty of *San Stefano*, had only reference to *Bulgaria* as constituted by that Treaty. Observations of *Austrian*, *Russian*, and *French* Plenipotentiaries on § 4 of Art. VII of Treaty of *San Stefano*. Electoral Law. Equality before the Law, and Liberty of Worship. Opinion of President as to necessity of a New Treaty. §§ 1, 2, and 4 of Art. VII adopted; 3 and 5 reserved.

„ Discussion on Art. VIII of Treaty of *San Stefano*. Withdrawal of *Ottoman* Troops from the Principality, and *Russian* Occupation for Two Years with 50,000 Men, until complete Formation of a Native Militia. Right reserved to *Russian* Troops to pass through the Principality during such Occupation. Objections of *Austrian* Plenipotentiary, who suggests (1) that a term of six months should be fixed for the *Russian* Occupation of *Bulgaria*, to commence from date of Treaty of Peace; (2), that two, or three months at the latest, should be fixed for allowing the Passage of *Russian* troops across *Roumania* and the Evacuation of the Principality; and (3) that in the event of *Russian* Troops not being withdrawn within the six months, a *European* Contingent of from 10,000 to 15,000 men should be sent to the Principality and placed under the orders of the *European* Commission: the Expenses to be charged to the Country occupied.

Concurrence of Lord Beaconsfield in these views, who expresses readiness of *England* to supply its quota of the proposed Contingent.

Objections of *Russian* Plenipotentiary thereon, who points out difference between *Eastern Roumelia* and *Bulgaria*; gives a general idea of what *Russia* proposes to do in *Bulgaria*; and expresses his views with regard to the difficulty in working a mixed Contingent.

Concurrence of Prince Bismarck in *Russian* views.

Reply of *Austrian* Plenipotentiary, who alludes to the numerous Petitions addressed to the Congress relative to *Bulgarian* Excesses.

Consent of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries to evacuate *Bulgaria* within nine months and *Roumania* within three months more, making twelve months to complete the entire Evacuation of the Two Provinces. Proposal declined by *Austrian* Plenipotentiary, who insists upon the complete Evacuation in nine months. Proposal declined by *Russian* Plenipotentiaries. Proposal of *Italian* Plenipotentiaries to fix six months for Evacuation of *Roumelia*, and that Evacuation of *Bulgaria* and *Roumania* should commence after nine months, and be completed in twelve months. Lord Salisbury points out difficulty in carrying out free Elections during a Foreign Occupation; upon which Count Schouvaloff proposes to postpone Election of Prince until after the departure of the *Russian* Army. Views of other Plenipotentiaries.

After expression of views by other Plenipotentiaries, *Russian* proposal adopted.

PROTOCOL No. 6, 25th June, 1878.

List of Petitions.

East Roumelia. Order of the Day. Amendments drawn up by *French* Plenipotentiary, after having come to an understanding with his *Russian* and *English* colleagues. Right of Governor-General to call for assistance of *Ottoman* Troops in case of internal or external security being threatened; but in such a contingency Representatives of the Powers at *Constantinople* to be informed of necessity which justifies it. Adopted. Maintenance of Order by a Native Gendarmerie, assisted by a Local Militia; Officers to be named by the Sultan; Religion of the Inhabitants to be taken into consideration.

Regular Troops only to be employed in Frontier Garrisons, and not to be quartered on the Inhabitants, nor to stay during their passage through the Province. This applies only to a State of Peace.

Points proposed by *French* Plenipotentiaries:—I. Non-employment of *Bashi-Bazouks*; II. *Turkish* Soldiers to be lodged in Barracks or Khans, or under canvas, and not to be quartered on the Inhabitants; III. *Turkish* Troops not to stay in the interior of the Province in their passage to the Frontier for the Service of the Garrisons.

Russian Plenipotentiaries insist on these arrangements being placed under the surveillance of an *European* Commission, which is rejected by the *British* Plenipotentiaries. *French* Plenipotentiary concurs in *British* views.

Russian Plenipotentiary accepts the Three Points, but with power to add an additional Clause respecting an *European* Commission, and consents to leave to the Sultan the right to occupy the Strong Places on the Frontier and Coast, and to waive the idea of controlling the Strategical Points and Number of *Ottoman* Troops to be employed in guarding the Frontier. Acceptance of Three Points proposed by *French* Plenipotentiaries; Third Point received by *Russian* Plenipotentiaries *ad referendum*. Protocol left open for *Russian* Decision hereafter upon the Third Point.

Discussion of *Austrian* Proposal for substituting *European* Commissioners for *Russian* Commissioners, strongly supported by Lord Salisbury, who recommends Immediate Action being taken thereupon. Disquieting Details received from *Constantinople* respecting Conduct of Military Governor of *Bulgaria*.

Lord Salisbury undertakes to submit his Proposition in writing; Observations of *Russian* Plenipotentiary, who expresses desire to conclude Peace, to carry out the work of Reorganisation, and to put an end to the Military Occupation.

Observations of President. Conference of Representatives of the Great Powers at *Constantinople* would really be the Commission, and the Consuls the Agents of the Conference; on which the *Russian* Ambassador observes that the Representatives at *Constantinople* would be a Court of Appeal between the Consuls of the Powers and the *Russian* Commis-

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- sioners; and refuses to consent to substitution of *European* Commissioners for *Russian* Commissioners in the cases foreseen by Art. VII of the Treaty of *San Stefano*. Lord Salisbury expresses surprise at *Russia* insisting on maintaining in *Bulgaria* the influence of a *Russian* Commissioner. Explanations of *Russian* Plenipotentiary, who proposes maintenance of *Russian* Commissioners acting under control of *European* Ambassadors at *Constantinople*, the Consuls being their Agents and Representatives.
- Lord Salisbury's motion with regard to Military Government of the Principality and of the Province as regards Financial and Administrative matters, to form addition to Art. VII.
- Observations of President with regard to consideration of Questions of Detail, and of secondary importance.
- Observations of *Italian* Representative, who consents to examine the point in concert with Representatives of Three Powers more immediately interested.
- Treaties relating to Commerce, Navigation, and Transit Dues, &c., Maintaining of, in *Bulgaria* and *Eastern Roumelia*. Lord Salisbury suggests omission of words "*Eastern Roumelia*." Discussion thereon.
- Observations of President with regard to Law of Nations on the question of Maintenance of *Treaties*.
- Erasure of words "*Eastern Roumelia*" from proposition, on observation of *Turkish* Plenipotentiary that no Transit Duty can be established on Territory of the Empire without express authority of the Sovereign. *Bulgaria*. Omission proposed of word "usages."
- Observation of Lord Beaconsfield with regard to the Capitulations. Decision of Congress.
- Order of the Day. Liberty of Worship in *Bulgaria*. Substitution of words "*Bulgarian Subjects*" for "*Inhabitants of Bulgaria*;" Agreed to.
- Proposal of *Russian* Plenipotentiary to substitute words "*Foreign Ecclesiastics and Members of Religious Orders*" for "*Catholic Bishops and Members of Religious Orders*."
- Observations of Lord Salisbury and *Turkish* Plenipotentiary.
- Discussion adjourned.
- Austrian* Plenipotentiary proposes an alteration in § 2 of Art. IX, with regard to Railways in *Bulgaria* and *Eastern Roumelia*.
- Discussion postponed.
- Ottoman Debt*. Lord Beaconsfield bespeaks for this Motion the careful attention of Congress. Discussion postponed.

PROTOCOL No. 7, 26th June, 1878.

List of Petitions.

- Proposal of Prince Bismarck for appointment of a Committee to prepare Draft of Stipulations to be inserted in New Treaty, in accordance with Resolutions passed by Congress; Agreed to.

Prince Gortchakow ; Attendance after Illness. Remarks on wish expressed by Lord Beaconsfield that the Sultan should be Master in his own Dominions ; Aims of *Russia* with regard to Amelioration of *Turkish* Provinces ; Administrative and Political ; Heroic Efforts of *Russian* Armies ; Concessions made by *Russia* in the Interests of Peace.

Observations of Lord Beaconsfield and Prince Bismarck.

Bulgaria. Order of the Day. Contribution of *Bulgaria* towards Debt of *Turkish* Empire in addition to Tribute. Proposition of Caratheodory Pasha.

Proposition of *Italian* Plenipotentiary. Addition to § 1 of Art. IX of Treaty of *San Stefano*, with regard to *Tribute* and *Ottoman Debt*. Discussion thereon. *Ottoman* Loans. *Italian* Proposition adopted.

Turkish Railways. Proposition of *Austrian* Plenipotentiaries. Alteration of § 2 of Art. IX of Treaty of *San Stefano*. Railways in *Bulgaria*. Conventions to be concluded between *Austria*, *Turkey*, *Servia*, and *Bulgaria*. Railways in *Eastern Roumelia*. Proposition adopted.

Bulgaria and *Eastern Roumelia*. Foreign Catholic Members of Religious Orders. Additional Article proposed by *French* Plenipotentiaries.

Religious Liberty. Observations of Lord Salisbury in favour of, throughout *Turkey in Europe*.

Religious Liberty. Observations of President and Count Schouvaloff with regard to, in *Turkey in Europe* and *Turkey in Asia*. Declaration of *Turkish* Plenipotentiary that Religious Liberty exists in *Turkey* by Legislation and by Treaties. Intention expressed by Lord Salisbury of reverting to the Subject when considering Art. XXII of Treaty of *San Stefano*. *French* Proposition adopted.

Bulgaria. Order of the Day. Amendment proposed by Lord Salisbury to Art. VII of the Treaty of *San Stefano* withdrawn.

Exchange of ideas between Cabinets of *Austria-Hungary*, *Great Britain*, *Russia*, and *Italy* upon subject of Articles VII to XI of Treaty of *San Stefano*. New Draft agreed upon. Modifications explained ;—Art. VII ; § 3. An Assembly of Notables of *Bulgaria* to be summoned at *Tirnova* will decide before the Election of the Prince the organisation of the future Administration. § 4. Words “Koutzo-Vlachs” omitted. § 5. Provisional Administration to be under direction of a *Russian* Commissioner, assisted by an *Ottoman* Commissioner, and Consuls of other Powers deputed *ad hoc*, until introduction of New Organisation.

New Organisation to be put into force on Election and Installation of Prince.

Eastern Roumelia. *European* Commission to be instituted, on conclusion of Peace, for organisation, and for financial administration until completion of organisation.

„ Observations of *Russian* and *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries. Amendments proposed in Articles VIII and IX ; Withdrawal of *Turkish* Army ; Demolition of Fortresses ; Railways. Suppression of Articles X and XI proposed by *Russian* Plenipotentiaries. *Austrian* Proposals adopted ; and *Bulgarian* Questions settled.

Desire of President to expedite business of Congress. Important Questions

remaining to be discussed :—*Bosnia, Montenegro, Serbia, Roumania, Greek Provinces, Danube, Straits, Asia, and War Indemnity.* Conversation on the consideration of Religious and Commercial Questions.

Servia. Proposition of *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries respecting Frontiers. Consideration of question adjourned.

PROTOCOL No. 8, 28th June, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Greece. M. Delyannis and M. Rangabé nominated *Greek* Representatives to Congress.

Eastern Roumelia. Consent of *Russia* to § 3 of *French* proposition in Protocol No. 6 respecting Passage of *Turkish* Troops. Formation of a Drafting Committee (Commission de Rédaction).

Order of the Day. (Art. XIV of Treaty of *San Stefano*.)

Bosnia and Herzegovina. Communication on Subject from Count Andrassy.

„ Proposition of Lord Salisbury, which is supported by Prince Bismarck and others.

„ Observations of *Italian* Plenipotentiaries.

„ Observations of *Austro-Hungarian* Plenipotentiaries.

„ Objections of *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries.

„ Observations of First Plenipotentiary of *France*.

„ Observations of Lord Beaconsfield.

„ Views of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries.

„ Declaration of First *Austro-Hungarian* Plenipotentiary of readiness of his Government to undertake the Occupation and Administration of these Provinces.

„ Vote taken on *English* Proposal.

„ *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries refuse to agree to it.

„ Remarks of President :—Object of Congress : Peace of *Europe*, and Revision of Treaty of *San Stefano*. Protocol left open to include fresh instructions from *Ottoman* Government, and for further observations of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries.

Order of the Day. (Art. III of Treaty of *San Stefano*.)

Servia. Independence. Observations of First *Turkish* Plenipotentiary.

„ Independence recognised by Lord Salisbury, but suggests recognition of its Religious Liberty. Observations of *French* Plenipotentiary.

„ Observations of Prince Gortchakow, who draws a difference between Jews of *Berlin*, of *Paris*, of *London*, and of *Vienna*, with those of *Servia* and *Roumania*, and some of the *Russian* Provinces, which, he says, are a scourge to the Native Population.

Observations also of Count Schouvaloff ; and views of other Plenipotentiaries.

Decision of Congress. Independence of *Servia* recognised, on condition that Religious Liberty be secured in the Principality. Proposition of Lord Salisbury in favour of Commercial Liberty, and prohibition against imposition of Transit Dues in *Servia*. Proposition of *Italian, Austro-*

- Hungarian*, and *French* Plenipotentiaries respecting Commercial Relations of *Servia* with Foreign Countries; Consular Jurisdiction and Protection; Privileges and Immunities of Foreign Subjects.
- Treaties. Views of Prince Bismarck as to Law of Nations with regard to Treaties: that a Province separated from a State should not be able to emancipate itself from Treaties by which it has been hitherto bound.
- Art. III of Treaty of *San Stefano*. *Servian* Frontiers. *Austrian* Proposals: Formation of a Special Committee to formulate and submit to Congress a tracing of the new Frontiers.
- Servia*. 1st and 2nd and last Sections of Art. IV of Treaty of *San Stefano* referred to Drafting Committee.
- „ Proposition of *Austrian* Plenipotentiaries respecting *Servian* Railways. Conventions to be concluded.
- Servian* Tribute and Payment of portion of *Ottoman* Debt. Observation of President: no mention made of Tribute in Treaty of *San Stefano*. Discussion thereon. Observations of Lord Salisbury and of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries respecting *Ottoman* Loans. Reply of *French* Plenipotentiary. Question referred to Drafting Committee.
- Greek* Representatives to be admitted at next Meeting. Question of admission of *Roumanian* Plenipotentiaries deferred.
- Montenegro*. *Ottoman* proposal respecting Frontier.
- Annex 1. Proposed Frontier for *Servia*. *Mali-Zwornik* and *Sakhar* given to *Servia*.
- Annex 2. Proposed Frontier for *Montenegro*. *Dulcigno*, *Antivari*, *River Boyana*, *Spizza*, &c..

PROTOCOL No. 9, 29th June, 1878.

Boundary Committee appointed.

Order of the Day (Art. XV of Treaty of *San Stefano*). *Crete* and neighbouring Provinces of *Greece*. Words “*European* Commission” substituted for “the Imperial Government of *Russia*” in last paragraph, at suggestion of Lord Salisbury.

Admission of *Greek* Representatives. Their views on *Greek* Question. Withdrawal of *Greek* Representatives from Sitting. Proposed Annexation of neighbouring Provinces (*Epirus* and *Thessaly*), and *Candia* (*Crete*).

Order of the Day (Arts. V and XIX of Treaty of *San Stefano*).

Roumania. Admission of *Roumanian* Representatives proposed by Lord Salisbury. Proposal supported by *Austrian*, *French*, and *Italian* Plenipotentiaries; at first objected to by President and *Russian* Plenipotentiaries, but objection subsequently withdrawn. No objection offered by *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries.

(Art. V.) Independence of *Roumania*. Speeches of President, Count Corti, and Count Schouvaloff.

(Art. XIX.) Speech of Lord Beaconsfield, on retrocession of *Bessarabia*, and Protest against it, as being an infraction of the Articles of the Treaty of Paris of 1856 (No. 264) with reference to the Free Navigation of the *Danube*. Observations of the *Russian* Plenipotentiaries, who declare that the *Russian* Government cannot give way on the question, it being a point of honour with them.

Observations of President. Discussion on question deferred for attendance of *Roumanian* Plenipotentiaries.

PROTOCOL No. 10, 1st July, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Question of Passage and right of Garrison of *Austria-Hungary* in Sandjak of *Novi-Bazar*. *Russian* Plenipotentiary withdraws his objection, and adheres to *Austrian* proposal.

Roumania. Order of the Day. (Art. V, § 1, of Treaty of *San Stefano*.)

„ *Roumanian* Representatives (Messrs. Bratiano and Cogalniceano) admitted, who state their views, and withdraw.

„ Remarks of President. Proposal of *French* Plenipotentiary for recognition of Independence of *Roumania* on same terms as those imposed on *Servia*; equality of Rights and Freedom of Worship; Jews and others.

„ Views of *French* Plenipotentiaries accepted by Lord Beaconsfield and other Plenipotentiaries.

„ Adhesion of *Russia* to proposal to be dependent on retrocession of *Bessarabia*.

„ Views of various Plenipotentiaries on proposed retrocession of *Bessarabia*.

„ Extension of *Roumanian* territory along the *Danube* from *Rassova* in the direction of *Silistria*. *Mangalia* to be placed within *Roumanian* Frontier. The *Dobrutscha*.

„ *Serpents' Island* given to *Roumania* with consent of *Russia*, at suggestion of Lord Salisbury.

„ Congress decide to recognise Independence of *Roumania* on same terms as those imposed on *Servia*, on condition that she accepts the *Dobrutscha* in exchange for *Bessarabia*.

„ *Turkish* proposals :—1. Tribute. 2. Payment of portion of *Ottoman* Debt. 3. Liability of *Roumania* for obligations of *Turkey* with regard to Public Works, &c., referred to Drafting Committee.

„ (Art. V, § 1, of Treaty of *San Stefano*.) War Indemnity to *Roumania*. Congress decide to strike out end of paragraph. § 2. Consular Jurisdiction and Protection over *Roumanians* in *Turkey* referred to Drafting Committee.

Montenegro. (Art. I of Treaty of *San Stefano*.) *Austrian* Proposals with regard to new Frontiers. Agreement come to between *Austria-Hungary* and *Russia*. *Dulcigno*, *Antivari*, *Spizza*, &c., referred to Boundary and Drafting Committees.

Montenegro. Views of *Ottoman* Plenipotentiary. Observations of President and Count Schouvaloff.

„ Art. II, § 1, of Treaty of *San Stefano*. As to Independence. Views of Lord Salisbury and the Plenipotentiaries of *France, Italy, and Russia* referred to Drafting Committee.

„ Religious Liberty. Payment of portion of *Ottoman* Debt. Property of Inhabitants in ceded Districts. State Properties and Religious Foundations (*Vakouf*). Questions referred to Drafting Committee.

Art. II, § 2, of Treaty of *San Stefano* referred back to Revising Committee. §§ 3 and 4 suppressed. § 5. Evacuation of *Ottoman* Territory referred to Drafting Committee.

Annex 1. Frontier of *Montenegro*.

Annex 2. *Antivari* and its littoral. *Dulcigno. Spizza.* Navigation of the *Boyana*. Fortifications. Ships of War. Maritime and Sanitary Police. Maritime Legislation. *Austrian* protection of Commercial Flag. Roads and Railroads.

PROTOCOL No. 11, 2nd July, 1878.

Bulgarian Boundary to be referred to Boundary Commission for *Servia* and *Montenegro*.

Order of the Day. (Arts. XII and XIII of Treaty of *San Stefano*).

Danube and its Fortresses. *Danube* Navigation. New Draft of Art. XII, presented by *Austro-Hungarian* Plenipotentiary :—

„ 1. Freedom of Navigation and Proposed Neutrality from *Iron Gates* to Mouth; *Delta Islands* and *Isle of Serpents* to be included in the Neutrality; Fortifications on *Danube* to be demolished, and not rebuilt. Ships of War excluded from the River, with the exception of Light Vessels for Police and Revenue Services; Stationnaires at Mouths of River to be maintained, but not to ascend higher than *Galatz*.

„ 2. European Commission maintained in its Functions till 1883, until fresh agreement is concluded;* its Rights, Privileges, and Immunities; Extension of Jurisdiction as far as *Galatz*. Independent Authority. Financial obligations to be revised. *Roumanian* Delegate to have a Seat on the Commission.

„ 3. Navigation of River and Commerce between *Iron Gates* and *Galatz*.

„ 4. Modification of Art. VI of Treaty of 13th March, 1871. *Austria* to remove Obstructions at the *Iron Gates*. Right of *Austria-Hungary* to continue to levy Provisional Tax for execution of Works at *Iron Gates* and *Cataracts*.

„ Views of Lord Salisbury.

„ Views of President: Congress assembled to accept, reject, or replace Articles of Treaty of *San Stefano*; but details proposed are beyond the task of the Congress. Discussion thereon.

* See Treaty, 10th March, 1883, and Declaration, 23rd April, 1883.

Danube. Decision of Congress. *Austro-Hungarian* Proposition to be referred to Drafting Committee, or *Austro-Hungarian* Plenipotentiaries, to extract chief principles.

„ “The *Russian* Empire” to be included among the Riverain States.

„ *Roumania* to be henceforth represented in *European* Commission.

„ Art. XIII of the Treaty of *San Stefano*. Claims arising out of Obstructions in the *Soulina* Channel of the *Danube* suppressed.

„ Art. XIX. *War Indemnity*, Territorial and Pecuniary.*

Dobrutscha and *Bessarabia*, and *Turkey in Asia*.

„ Objection of Lord Salisbury to the words “the guarantee to be applied thereunto.”

„ Views of *Turkish* and *Russian* Plenipotentiaries.

„ *Bondholders*. Statement of Lord Salisbury as to effect of Indemnity on *Turkish* Creditors, and refusal to admit right of *Russia*, under Treaty of *San Stefano*, to take Precedence of other Creditors on the Porte.

„ Views of *Italian* Plenipotentiaries as to *Turkish* Bondholders.

„ Declaration recorded of *Russian* Plenipotentiary—1. That in no case will the Indemnity be converted into Territorial acquisition. 2. That *Russia* will in no way interfere with the interests of the two Categories of Loans: those guaranteed, or those of ordinary obligation.*

„ Discussion thereon.

„ Declaration of *Turkish* Plenipotentiary of intention of his Government to fulfil its Financial Engagements. (*See* Arrangement made between the Porte and Bondholders, 20th December, 1881.)

Decision of Congress to omit §§ *c* and *d* of Art. XIX as to the Claim for Indemnity to *Russian* Subjects and Institutions in *Turkey* from the future Treaty.

PROTOCOL No. 12, 4th July, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Servia. Declaration of *Servian* Government of intention to abolish “by legal means” the last Restriction existing with regard to the Position of the Jews. Observation of President thereon.

Bosnia and *Herzegovina*. Direct Understanding to be come to between *Austria* and *Turkey* on the subject of *Austrian* Occupation and Administration of Provinces.

Montenegro. Report of Boundary Commission:—*Antivari* to be annexed to *Montenegro*; Navigation of the *Boyana* to be free to *Montenegro*; *Dulcigno* to be restored to *Turkey*; *Spizza* to be given to *Austria*;† Ships of War not to be maintained by *Montenegro*, nor Naval Flag of War; Port of *Antivari*, and all *Montenegrin* Waters, to be closed to Foreign Ships of War; Fortifications to be demolished;

* *See* Treaty of Peace between *Russia* and *Turkey*, 8th February, 1879 (No. 542).

† *See* Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. XXIX, and *Austrian* Law of 15th April, 1879 (No. 544).

Maritime and Sanitary Police to be maintained by *Austria*; Maritime Legislation in force in *Dalmatia* to be adopted in *Montenegro*; Consular Protection to be afforded by *Austria* to *Montenegrin* Light Guardacostas; Right of *Montenegro* to open a Road and a Railroad in New Territory; and Communication to be entirely Free.

Montenegro. Views of the various Plenipotentiaries.

- „ Document forwarded by Mehemet Ali Pasha to Boundary Committee.
- „ *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries state that they have referred to their Government for Instructions.

Danube. Abridged Text of *Austro-Hungarian* Proposal. *Russian* Proposals:—Confirmation of Treaties and revising of Act of 2nd November, 1865 (No. 375); Fortifications; Ships of War. Observations of Prince Bismarck as to small Interests of *Germany* in the Question.

Art. I. Liberty of Navigation. Exclusion of Ships of War between the *Iron Gates* and the Mouths of the *Danube*; Adopted.

Art. II, § 1. Prolongation of duration of the *European* Commission: Reserved.* § 2. Extension of its Powers as far as *Galatz*; Independence of Commission of Territorial Power; and Admission of a *Roumanian* Commissioner; Adopted.

Art. III. Uniformity of Regulations of Navigation and River Police throughout the River below the *Iron Gates*; Reserved.

Art. IV. Substitution of *Austria-Hungary* for *Riverain States* with regard to the Stipulations of Art. VI of the Treaty of 13th March, 1871 (No. 439); Works to be executed at the *Iron Gates* and the *Cataracts*; Adopted.

Order of the Day. (Art. XXII of Treaty of *San Stefano*.)

Mount Athos. *Russian* Monks and Ecclesiastics. Proposition of Lord Salisbury. Reforms.

- „ § 1. Inhabitants of *Ottoman Empire* in *Europe* without distinction of Religion, to enjoy equal Rights, and to be eligible for all Public Employments, Functions, and Honours, and their Evidence to be admitted before the Tribunals.
- „ § 2. Exercise and Public Practice of all Creeds to be entirely Free and without Hindrance, including Hierarchical Organizations of different Communion, and their Relations with their Spiritual Heads.
- „ § 3. Enjoyment by all Ecclesiastics, Pilgrims and Monks, in *European* and *Asiatic Turkey* of equal Rights and Privileges.
- „ § 4. Right of Official Protection to be granted by Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Agents with regard to Persons and Possessions, and Religious, Charitable, and other Establishments, in the Holy Places and elsewhere.
- „ § 5. All Monks, without exception, to be secured in their Possessions and Rights.
- „ Religious Toleration. Declaration of *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries. Words “In *Europe*” struck out by Congress. Paragraph referred back to Drafting Committee to be reconsidered with *Turkish* Observations.

* See Treaty, 10th March, 1883, and Declaration, 23rd April, 1883.

Mount Athos. §§ 2 and 3 adopted.

„ § 4. Omission of the word “Possessions,” applied to Ecclesiastics, proposed by *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries: Agreed to by Congress.

„ Addition proposed by *France*. Vested rights of *France* reserved; *status quo* in Holy Places in no way prejudiced: Adopted.

„ § 5. Addition proposed by *Russian* Plenipotentiaries, after the words, “the Monks of *Mount Athos*, whatever be the country of their origin:” Adopted.

Discussion on *Greek* Question deferred.

Armenia (Art. XVI of Treaty of *San Stefano*).

Observations of Lord Salisbury, on proposed dependence of *Russian* Evacuation of *Turkish* Territory on concession of Reforms. Discussion adjourned.

Danube. Discussion of arrangement agreed upon between *Austria-Hungary* and *Russia*. Art. II. § 1. Question of Prolongation, or of Modifications to be introduced into, European Commission agreed to be considered One Year before expiration of term of its Duration.*

„ Art. III. Questions of Regulation of Navigation and of Police from *Iron Gates* to *Galatz* to be elaborated by the European Commission, assisted by Delegates from Riverain States, and to be in conformity with those introduced for the course of the River below *Galatz*: Agreed to.

PROTOCOL No. 13, 5th July, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Order of the Day. (Art. XV of Treaty of *San Stefano*.) *Crete*. Organic Law of 1868.† Similar Laws for *Epirus*, *Thessaly*, and other parts of *European Turkey*.

Speech of M. Waddington on Rectification of *Greek* Frontiers. His feelings towards his Colleagues the *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries; Offer of Crown of *Greece* to Prince Leopold in 1830; Cause of his refusing it; Territorial Limits unsatisfactory: Proposed extension of Frontiers in *Epirus* and *Thessaly*, and mediation of the Powers.‡

„ Concurrence of *Italian* Plenipotentiaries in views of *French* Plenipotentiaries.

„ Views of *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries.

Consideration of Art. XV of Treaty of *San Stefano*, at suggestion of President. Its adoption, with addition of words, “by the Sublime Porte,” after the words “Special Commissions,” in § 3.

Greek Frontiers. § Discussion on Art. XV of Treaty of *San Stefano* resumed.

„ Speech of Lord Beaconsfield.

„ Observations of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries respecting the *Slavs*.

* See Treaty, 10th March, 1883, and Declaration, 23rd April, 1883.

† Appendix.

‡ See also page 2726.

§ See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Art. 24, page 2777.

Greek Frontiers. Acceptance of *French* and *Italian* Proposition by all the Plenipotentiaries excepting the *Turkish*.

Mirdites. Proposition of *Austrian* and *French* Plenipotentiaries respecting the *Mirdite* Population; the proposed confirmation of their Privileges and Immunities. Observations of Lord Salisbury.

„ Opposition of *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries. Explanations.

„ *Austrian* and *French* Plenipotentiaries satisfied with *Turkish* Assurances.

PROTOCOL No. 14, 6th July, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Demand of *Persian* Minister (Malcolm Khan) to be admitted to Congress when arrangement relating to *Khotour* comes on: Agreed to.

Order of the Day. (Arts. XVI, XVIII, and XIX, § 6, of Treaty of *San Stefano*.)

Territories in *Asia*.

Art. XVIII. *Khotour* reserved.

Art. XIXb. *Ardahan* and *Kars*. Observations of Lord Salisbury. Speech of *Russian* Plenipotentiary: *Russian* Concessions with regard to *Erzeroum*, *Bayazid*, and the Valley of *Alashkerd*, containing principal Commercial Routes towards *Persia*.

„ *Batoum* to be a Free Port. Observations of President. *Russian* Concessions, a considerable Modification of Treaty of *San Stefano*.

„ Speech of Lord Beaconsfield, who expresses his desire that *Batoum* should remain under Sovereignty of the Porte.

„ Observations of President and other Plenipotentiaries.

„ Proposal of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries to omit the words “as far as the *Saganlough*.” Map produced by Count Schouvaloff.

„ Speech of Lord Salisbury with regard to *Batoum*, *Bayazid*, and Valley of *Alashkerd*.

„ Views of Prince Gortchakow on Separate Questions of Boundary and Population.

„ Observations of Lord Salisbury respecting the *Lazes*. Discussion respecting number of *Laze* population of *Lazistan*. *Russian* Plenipotentiaries put numbers down at 50,000 souls, and *British* and *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries at 200,000 souls.

„ Congress decides to allow question to be settled between *British* and *Russian* Plenipotentiaries.

Art. XVI. *Armenians*. Reforms. Proposition of Lord Salisbury. *Turkish* Proposals. Discussion thereon. Question postponed.

Straits of Dardanelles and *Bosphorus*. Lord Salisbury's Speech.

Proposed Maintenance of the *status quo ante*, on understanding that *Batoum* is to be only a Commercial Port.

Russian remarks about *Batoum*.

Bulgaria:—To have no Naval Force in *Black Sea*.

Order of the Day. (Art. XXIV.) Opening of the *Straits*. Fictitious *Blockades*: *Italian* Plenipotentiary calls attention to the Declaration of *Paris* of 1856 thereon (No. 271). *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries admit its binding effect.

„ Subject dropped on maintenance of *status quo* being preserved.

Art. XXV. Evacuation of *Turkish* Territory in *Europe* and in *Asia*.

Art. XXVI. *Russian* Administration of Provinces.

Art. XXVII. Amnesty.

Art. XXVIII. Prisoners of War.

Art. XXIX. Ratifications. President observes that these Articles are merely local and military stipulations.

Christian Populations in *Europe* and *Asia*. Observations of Count Schouvaloff as to Application of Art. XV to Christians in all parts of *Turkey* in *Europe*. Remarks of President and of *Austro-Hungarian* Plenipotentiary.

Roumania. Consecrated Property (*Dedicated Convents*). Question reserved.

PROTOCOL No. 15, 8th July, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Order of the Day. (Art. XVIII of Treaty of *San Stefano*.)

Restitution of *Khotour* to *Persia*: Rectification of *Turco-Persian Frontier*.

Persian Representative (Malcolm Khan) introduced to Congress, makes no Proposition, but expresses readiness of his Government to submit beforehand to Decision of Congress, and withdraws.

Principles of Article agreed to, but a New one to be prepared by Plenipotentiaries of *Great Britain* and *Russia*.

Order of the Day. (Art. XVI of Treaty of *San Stefano*.)

Armenian Provinces. Reforms. Protection against *Kurds* and *Circassians*.

Draft agreed upon between *British* and *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries.

Consecrated (*Dedicated*) *Convents* in *Roumania*. Petition of Archbishop Gerassimos.

Eastern *Holy Places*.

Observations of Plenipotentiaries thereupon.

Question to be referred to respective Governments.

Order of the Day. Report of Boundary Commission.

Bulgaria. Delineation of Northern Frontier, and the line from *Silistria* to *Mangalia*, augmenting *Roumanian* territory: adopted by Congress.

Delineation of Western Frontier; adopted by Congress.

Southern Frontier Line; adoption by Congress, up to *Kosica*.

Difficulties experienced by Commission with regard to Delimitation of *Sandjak* of *Sofia* and the Valleys of *Strouma* and *Mesta Karasu*.

Proposed Delimitation of Frontier from *Kosica* to Eastern Frontier of Principality of *Servia*, near to the *Kula Smiljeva Çuka*. Views of the various Plenipotentiaries: referred back to the Commission. Military Road. Principle of assigning *Pirot* to *Servia* and *Trn* to *Bulgaria* accepted by Congress.

Commission to settle details by Majority.

Defence of the *Balkans*. Proposal of *English* Representatives on Boundary Commission to add to the line of the *Balkans* a Strategical Radius of 5 kilometres, not accepted, but Resolution passed that *European* Commission should consider Defence by *Turkey* of Frontiers of the *Balkan* of *Eastern Roumelia*; agreed to.

Eastern Roumelia. Demarcation of Frontier approved by Congress.

Servia. Adoption by Congress of proposed Delimitation of Principality.

Mali-Zwornik and *Sakhar* given to *Servia*. *Prépolac* given to *Turkey*.

Protest of Lord Salisbury against Cession of *Vranja* to *Servia*.

Boundary Commission to determine to the South of *Vranja* the course of a line which, leaving *Vranja* to *Servia*, would give *Turkey* the necessary space for the Defence of her Possessions.

Prince Gortchakow asks in the name of the *Russian* Government, by what principles and in what manner Congress proposes to insure the execution of its high Decisions. Question deferred to next Meeting.

PROTOCOL No. 16, 9th July, 1878.

Order of the Day. (Revised Art. XVIII of Treaty of *San Stefano*.)

Restitution of *Khotour* to *Persia*; referred to next Meeting.

Difficulty in tracing Frontier Line in *Asia*.

Declaration of *Russia* that *Batoum* shall be made a Free Port and a Port essentially Commercial.

Observations of Lord Beaconsfield, and of Prince Gortchakow, with reference to Acceptance by him of Line in front of *Olti* on his own personal responsibility.

Boundary Commission to decide by Majority of Votes the tracing of the new Frontier Line.

Alashkerd declared to be beside the Question.

Suggestion of Prince Gortchakow that the Powers parties to the Congress should guarantee collectively the execution of their Resolutions.

Observations of *Turkish* Plenipotentiary as to binding effect of a Treaty of Peace.

Assurance of *Ottoman* Government that Resolutions of Congress shall be put into execution with the least possible delay.

Observations of *Russian* Plenipotentiary and President thereon.

Discussion adjourned until *Russian* Plenipotentiaries shall have brought forward a definitive Proposal.

Bulgaria. Decision of Boundary Commission relative to the *Sandjak* of *Softa*.

Servia. Decision by Majority relative to Frontier of District of *Vranja* approved by Congress, but Protocol to remain open for receipt by the *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries of Instructions from the Porte.

Order of the Day. Communication by Drafting Commission. Arrangement of Articles of Treaty. Maintenance in force of Treaties of 1856 and 1871 (Nos. 264 and 439).

Objections raised by Lord Salisbury, more especially as regards the *Straits*.
Proposal of Drafting Commission accepted by Majority, and adopted.

Opinion of President that Congress agrees : 1st. That the New Treaty takes Precedence of the Treaties of *Paris* (No. 264), of *London* (No. 439), and of *San Stefano* (No. 518). 2nd. That the Drafting of the New Treaty will follow the order of subjects observed in the discussion by Congress.

Proposal of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries with regard to the Stipulations in the Treaties as to *Evacuation* of Localities detached from the *Ottoman Empire*.

Proposal of Mehemet Ali Pasha respecting the part of the *Sandjak* of *Sofia* to form part of *Bulgaria*. The President states that the question is already decided, but will be borne on the Order of the Day for the next Sitting.

PROTOCOL No. 17, 10th July, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Order of the Day. Declaration of *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries that the Porte makes no objection to the Draft presented by Count Schouvaloff relative to the Town and Territory of *Khotour* when Frontier line has been traced by the *Anglo-Russian* Commission.

Asiatic Boundary. Settlement by Boundary Commission of Questions of detail relative to the Frontiers of the District of *Batoum*. Sanction of Congress thereto.

Order of the Day. Simultaneous *Evacuation* of Territories suggested by Lord Salisbury. Objections of Count Schouvaloff. Proposal of Carathéodory Pasha, that details be left to *European* Commission. The President supports simultaneous *Evacuation*, and suggests that the Drafting Commission be charged with formulating the Resolution of the Congress ; which is agreed to.

Bulgaria. Consideration of Art. X of Treaty of *San Stefano*. *Ottoman* Proposal respecting the Military Road in the *Sandjak* of *Sofia* agreed to. Details to be left to *European* Commission.

Ottoman proposal that *Russia* should undertake that part of the *Ottoman* Public Debt which falls to those portions of the Country annexed to *Russian* territory in *Asia*. Absolute refusal of *Russian* Plenipotentiaries to agree thereto. The President recognises the impossibility of the *Ottoman* Proposal.

New Draft of *Russian* Proposal presented on subject of the sanction to be given to the Decisions of Congress, and binding effect of the Treaty of *Berlin*. Suggestion that the Great Powers should come to an understanding, should the Treaty not be carried out.

Opinion of the President that the Proposal be divided and be made the object of two Votes. Lord Salisbury asks whether the terms of the Proposition imply the necessity of employing a Foreign Force in case the Treaty should not be carried into effect. The President declares his

opinion against such an interpretation. Count Andrassy concurs, and proposes that the wording be referred to a Committee *ad hoc*. Lord Salisbury asks that the Proposal be printed, which is decided on, and the Question deferred to the next Sitting.

Russian Proposal that *Shipka* be made into a glorious Cemetery, surrounded by a zone, where Batteries could never be raised again. Proposal of *Turkish* Plenipotentiary to add the words "reserving the Strategical Necessities of *Shipka*."

Idea expressed by the *Russian* Plenipotentiaries accepted by the Congress on the proposal of the President, and the *European* Commission recommended to examine on the spot the means of carrying it out.

Report of Drafting Commission. Preamble not yet settled.

Articles read relating to *Bulgaria*. Objection offered by *Turkish* Plenipotentiaries to words "a Christian Government" in Art. I; overruled.

Art. III. Lord Odo Russell suggests that the Princely Dignity in *Bulgaria* should be Hereditary; not admitted.

Art. V. Addition proposed by Count de Launay relative to Jews in *Roumania*; rejected, but motion inserted in Protocol.

Art. VI. Explanation required by Lord Salisbury relative to Provisional Administration of *Bulgaria*. President explains that *Ottoman* Commissioner can complain to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers. Explanation inserted in the Protocol.

Arts. VII, VIII, IX, and X. Agreed to.

Art. XI. Amendment proposed by Count Andrassy. Fortresses to be demolished within "a year, or sooner, if possible;" Agreed to.

Eastern Roumelia. *Ottoman* objections to the express mention of the Christian Religion of the Governor, overruled by the President, who points out that the Congress in maintaining on this point the Arrangements of the Treaty of *San Stefano* has sanctioned them by implication.

Eastern Roumelia and *Montenegro*; Articles agreed to.

Servia. *Russian* objections relative to Capitalization of the Tribute, reserved to next Sitting.

Navigation of the *Danube*; Articles agreed to.

Bosnia-Herzegovina. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries abide by their Communication to Congress.

Religious Liberty. Additional paragraph proposed by Count Corti to Article relating to *Holy Places*; *Status quo* to be maintained not only for *France*, but for all the Powers; overruled; but observations of Count Corti inserted in the Protocol.

PROTOCOL No. 18, 11th July, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Order of the Day. Discussion on *Russian* Proposal relative to sanction to Decisions of Congress and Execution of Treaty of *Berlin*; Amendment proposed by Count Andrassy. Objections of Lord Salisbury to

Russian Proposal. The President suggests adoption of the Amendment. Refusal of Prince Gortchakow. Count Schouvaloff proposes New Wording. Declaration of the *Porte*. *Russian Proposal* and *Austrian Amendment* rejected by Congress.

Order of the Day. Facts to be entered on the Protocol, viz., the Proposal itself, the Answer of the *Porte*, and the Decision of the Congress to take note of the Declarations of the *Ottoman Plenipotentiary*.

Capitalization of Tribute of *Roumania* and *Servia*.

„ Proposals of Drafting Committee. Lord Salisbury maintains that the loss of the Tribute should not be imposed on *Turkey*, the *Principalities* not having redeemed them by great Sacrifices and great Victories. Lord Beaconsfield adds that the Tribute formed part of the Guarantee of the Creditors of the *Porte*, and that this Guarantee ought not to be taken away from them. Prince Gortchakow expresses a positive opinion against the above Arguments.

„ Count Schouvaloff declares that the *Principalities* had gained their Independence by the War, and were not in the position of States negotiating for Redemption from Tribute in exchange for Independence.

„ *French* Plenipotentiaries concur in the views of *Russia*, but with the reservation that the New Territories shall assume a proportional part of the Debt.

„ *Austro-Hungarian* Plenipotentiaries agree with the *French* Plenipotentiaries.

„ The President states the opinion of the majority of the Congress to be decidedly against the Compulsory Redemption of the Tribute, and declares that the Drafting Committee should suppress the Article relative to Capitalization of *Roumanian* and *Servian* Tributes.

Turkish Bondholders. The Plenipotentiaries of *France*, *Great Britain*, and *Italy*, present a Declaration that a Financial Commission be established at *Constantinople* to examine into the Complaints of the Bondholders of the *Ottoman* Debt.

„ Carathéodory Pasha opposes the Commission.

„ The Plenipotentiaries of *Austria-Hungary* and *Russia* concur in the Declaration. The President also concurs in the name of *Germany*, and announces that the Declaration will be inserted in the Protocol.

Asiatic Frontier. Decision of Boundary Committee. Agreement accepted by the Congress. Count Schouvaloff acquaints the Congress that, owing to differences existing in the Geographical Maps of *Alashkerd* Valley, an ulterior understanding must be arrived at on the spot between the *Russian* and *Turkish* Commissioners.

„ An *English* Delegate to be associated with the *Russian* and *Turkish* Commissioners.

Bosnia and Herzegovina. Addition to Article on the Subject proposed by *Turkish* Plenipotentiary, reserving to Governments of *Austria-Hungary* and *Turkey* to come to an understanding between themselves on matters of detail: accepted by Congress.

Remainder of Project of Treaty read.

Evacuations in *Montenegro* and *Servia*. Additional Paragraphs added.
Danube Clauses. Supplementary Paragraph inserted. Lighthouse on *Isle of Serpents*.

Organic Law for Christian Provinces of *Turkey* in *Europe*. Addition made by Drafting Committee approved.

Rectification of Frontiers of *Turkey* and *Greece*. Mediation of Powers in case of Agreement not being arrived at. Request of *Turkish* Plenipotentiary for Adjournment. The President remarks a wish only on the subject is expressed by the Congress.

Asia. Topographical Details required before Articles can be definitively drawn up.

Khotour and the *Armenians*. Only formal Observations made on the Articles being read.

Dardanelles and *Bosphorus*. Declaration of the Marquis of Salisbury as to obligations of *Great Britain* towards the Sultan relating to the closing of the *Straits*. Treaties of 1856 (Nos. 264, 265) and 1871 (No. 439). Count Schouvaloff reserves the right of inserting in the Protocol a Counter-Declaration. (See Protocol, No. 19, page 2757.)

Draft. Preamble agreed to by Congress.

Disorders in *Rhodope* District :—

„ Resolution proposed by *French* Plenipotentiary that the Ambassadors at *Constantinople* should be instructed to come to an Agreement with the *Sublime Porte* for the immediate despatch of an *European* Commission charged to verify on the spot the serious nature of the facts, and, as far as possible, to remedy them : agreed to by the Congress.

„ Resolution agreed to by the High Assembly not as Members of Congress, but as Representatives of their respective Governments.*

PROTOCOL No. 19, 12th July, 1878.

List of Petitions.

Order of the Day. Supplementary Report of Drafting Committee. Treaty re-read by Committee.

Bulgarian Boundary. Suggested suppression of paragraph 3 of Art. II relating to Passage of Troops and *Bulgarian* Convoys by a Military Road between *Widdin* and *Sofia*, viâ *Pirot* and the neck of *St. Nicholas*.

„ Paragraph suppressed, after discussion : the *Russian* Plenipotentiaries having declared that the obligations accepted by them in Protocol No. 17, in favour of a Military Route for *Turkey*, have their full value.

Servian Frontiers. Suppression of paragraph in Art. XXXVI respecting Military Road and Passage of Troops.

* See Report, 27th August, 1878 (No. 533).

[Berlin Congress.]

Greek Frontiers. Proposal of *Ottoman* Plenipotentiary that the word "Mediation" in Art. XXIV be replaced by the words "Good Offices." Observations thereon.

Servian Frontier. Demand of *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries that the *Pass of Prépolec* be retained in *Ottoman* Territory; rejected.

Note appended to Draft Treaty stating that all Names of Places have been taken from the *Austrian* Staff Map.

Asiatic Frontier. Sitting suspended to admit of *Pourparlers* between Plenipotentiaries of *Great Britain*, *Russia*, and *Turkey*.

„ Sitting resumed. Art. LIX of Draft of Treaty agreed to by those three Powers, but Art. LX suppressed.

Separate Agreement entered into between the Marquis of Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff:—That the more detailed tracing of the Line of the *Alashkerd* be carried out on the spot by a Commission composed of an *English*, a *Russian*, and a *Turkish* Officer. (See No. 529, page 2758).

Congress consider that it is the *Ratifications* and not only the Signature which give to *Treaties* their definitive value.

President authorised to communicate unofficially to *Greece*, *Persia*, *Montenegro*, and the *Principalities*, after Signature of Treaty, the decisions arrived at concerning them. Complete Treaty to be communicated to them after *Ratification*.

Ratifications to be exchanged within three weeks instead of within four weeks, as previously agreed upon.

Time for Evacuation of territory to be reckoned in all cases from date of ratification instead of from date of signature of Treaty, as previously agreed upon.

Dardanelles and *Bosphorus*. *Russian* Counter-Declaration respecting the closing of the *Straits*. The principle of the closing is a *European* principle, and the Stipulations of the Treaties of 1841, 1856, and 1871 (Nos. 193, 264, 265, 439) are confirmed, and binding on all the Powers. (See the Marquis of Salisbury's Declaration in Protocol No. 18, page 2756.)

Instructions sent to the Representatives of the several Powers at *Constantinople* relative to Commissioners to be sent to the *Rhodope* District.

PROTOCOL No. 20, 13th July, 1878.

Closing of the Congress. Speech of Count Andrassy. Reply of the President.

Signature of Treaty. Speech of the President.

Labours of the Congress closed.

No. 529.—*AGREEMENT signed by the Marquis of Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff respecting the tracing of the Line of the Alashkerd. Berlin, July 12, 1878.*

[This Agreement was annexed to the Treaty of Berlin of 13th July, 1878, **No. 530.**]

(Translation.)

Military Commission to trace the Line of the Alashkerd.

The more detailed tracing of the line of the Alashkerd shall be carried out on the spot, in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), by a Military Commission composed of a Russian officer, an Ottoman officer, and an English officer.*

SALISBURY.
SCHOUVALOFF.

Berlin, July 12, 1878.

* See Protocol between Great Britain, Russia, and Turkey, fixing Point West of Karaourgan, in accordance with Art. LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, 17th May, 1880 (**No. 565**); Protocols of Conferences between British, Russian, and Turkish Commissioners, defining the Limits between Russia and Turkey in Asia, 7th June to 11th August, 1880 (**No. 573**); and Act of 11th August, 1880 (**No. 574**).

No. 530.—*TREATY between Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for the Settlement of the Affairs of the East. Signed at Berlin, 13th July, 1878.**

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* This Treaty was signed in the French language, for which version see "State Papers," Vol. 69, page 749.

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* The Turkish Ratifications were exchanged at Berlin on the 28th August, 1878.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

In the name of Almighty God.

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia, His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., and King Apostolic of Hungary, the President of the French Republic, His Majesty the King of Italy, His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, being desirous to regulate, with a view to European order, conformably to the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris of 30th March, 1856 (**No. 264**), the questions raised in the East by the events of late years and by the war terminated by the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano (**No. 518**), have been unanimously of opinion that the meeting of a Congress would offer the best means of facilitating an understanding.

Their said Majesties and the President of the French Republic have, in consequence, appointed as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, Viscount Hughenden, a Peer of Parliament, Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury, and Prime Minister of England ; the Most Honourable Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne Cecil, Marquis of Salisbury, Earl of Salisbury, Viscount Cranborne, Baron Cecil, a Peer of Parliament, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs ; and the Right Honourable Lord Odo William Leopold Russell, Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Her Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia ;

His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia, Otho, Prince Bismarck, His President of the Council of Ministers of Prussia, Chancellor of the Empire ; Bernard Ernest de Bülow, His Minister of State and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs ; and Chlodwig Charles Victor, Prince of Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst, Prince of Ratibor and Corvey, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the French Republic, Great Chamberlain of the Crown of Bavaria ;

[Treaty of Berlin.]

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., and King Apostolic of Hungary, Jules, Count Andrassy of Csik Szent-Király and Krasna-Horka, Grandee of Spain of the First Class, Privy Councillor, His Minister of the Imperial Household and for Foreign Affairs, Lieutenant Field-Marshal in his Armies; Louis Count Károlyi of Nagy-Károlyi, Chamberlain and Privy Councillor, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia; and Henri, Baron de Haymerle, Privy Councillor, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of Italy;

The President of the French Republic, William Henri Waddington, Senator, Member of the Institute, Minister Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Charles Raymond de la Croix de Chevalière, Count de Saint-Vallier, Senator, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from France at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia; and Félix Hippolyte Desprez, Councillor of State, Minister Plenipotentiary of the First Class, charged with the direction of Political Affairs at the Department for Foreign Affairs;

His Majesty the King of Italy, Louis, Count Corti, Senator, His Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Edward, Count de Launay, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia;

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, Alexander, Prince Gortchakow, His Chancellor of the Empire; Peter, Count de Schouvaloff, General of Cavalry, His Aide-de-Camp General, Member of the Council of the Empire, and His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of Her Britannic Majesty; and Paul d'Oubril, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia;

And His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Alexander Carathéodory Pasha, His Minister of Public Works; Mehemed Ali Pasha, Mushir of His Armies; and Sadoullah Bey, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia;

Who, in accordance with the proposal of the Court of Austria-Hungary (No. 519), and on the invitation of the Court of Germany (No. 523), have met at Berlin furnished with full powers, which have been found in good and due form.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

An understanding having been happily established between them, they have agreed to the following stipulations:—

Bulgaria. An Autonomous and Tributary Principality under Suzerainty of the Sultan. Christian Government. National Militia.

ART. I. Bulgaria is constituted an autonomous and tributary Principality under the suzerainty of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan; it will have a Christian Government and a national militia.*

Bulgaria. Boundaries.†

ART. II. The Principality of Bulgaria will include the following territories:—

Boundary between Bulgaria and Roumania. Silistria to Mangalia.

The frontier follows on the north the right bank of the Danube from the former frontier of Servia up to a point to be determined by a European Commission to the east of Silistria, and thence runs to the Black Sea to the south of Mangalia, which is included in Roumanian territory.‡ The Black Sea forms the eastern boundary of Bulgaria.

Boundary between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.§

On the south the frontier follows upwards from its mouth the mid-channel of the brook near which are situated the villages of Hodžakiöj, Selam-Kiöj, Aivadžik, Kulibe, Sudžuluk; crosses obliquely the valley of the Deli-Kamčik, passes south of Belibe and Kemhalik and north of Hadžimahale after having crossed the Deli-Kamčik at $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilom. above Čengei; reaches the crest at a point situated between Tekenlik and Aidos-Bredza, and follows it by Karnabad Balkan, Priševica Balkan, Kazan Balkan to the north of Kotel as far as Demir Kapu. It

* The Bulgarian Constitution was signed at Tirnovo, $\frac{1}{2}$ gth April, 1879. See "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 1303.

† See map.

‡ This Commission sat from 21st October till 17th December, 1878 (No. 538), and again from 18th April till 24th September, 1879 (No. 554).

§ See Boundary Acts:—Silistria to Mangalia, 17th December, 1878 (No. 539); Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, 14th August, 1879 (No. 549); Bulgaria and Servia, 20th September, 1879 (No. 553); Bulgaria and Turkey (Macedonia), 20th September, 1879 (No. 553). See also Procès-Verbaux, Technical Commission, Frontier near Silistria, 27th October to 11th November, 1879 (No. 558).

§ See Act, 14th August, 1879 (No. 549).

proceeds by the principal chain of the Great Balkan, the whole length of which it follows up to the summit of Kosica.

There it leaves the crest of the Balkan, descends southwards between the villages of Pirtop and Dužanci, the one being left to Bulgaria and the other to Eastern Roumelia, as far as the brook of Tuzlu Dere, follows that stream to its junction with the Topolnica, then the latter river until it meets the Smovskio Dere near the village of Petricevo, leaving to Eastern Roumelia a zone with a radius of 2 kilom. above that junction, ascends between the brooks of Smovskio Dere and the Kamenica, following the line of the watershed so as to turn to the south-west at the level of Voinjak and reach directly the point 875 of the Austrian Staff map.

The frontier line cuts at right angles the upper basin of the brook of Ichtiman Dere, passes between Bogdina and Karaúla, so as to rejoin the line of the watershed separating the basins of the Isker and the Marica, between Camurli and Hadžilar, follows that line by the summits of Velina Mogila, the "col" 531, Zmailica Vrh, Sumnatica, and rejoins the administrative boundary of the Sandjak of Sofia between Sivri Taš and Čadir Tepe.

*Boundary between Bulgaria and Turkey (Macedonia).**

From Čadir Tepe, the frontier, taking a south-westerly direction, follows the watershed between the basins of the Mesta Karasu on the one side, and the Struma Karasu on the other, runs along the crests of the mountains of Rhodope called Demir Kapu, Iskoftepe, Kadimesar Balkan, and Aiji Gedük up to Kapetnik Balkan, and thus joins the former administrative frontier of the Sandjak of Sofia.

From Kapetnik Balkan the frontier is indicated by the watershed between the valleys of the Rilska reka and of the Bistrica reca, and follows the ridge called Vodenica Planina, descending into the valley of the Struma at the junction of this river with the Rilska reka, leaving the village of Barakli to Turkey. It ascends then south of the village of Jelešnica, and reaches by the shortest line the chain of Golema Planina at the summit of Gitka, and rejoins there the former administrative frontier of the Sandjak of Sofia, leaving, however, to Turkey the whole of the basin of the Suha reka.

* See Act, 20th September, 1879 (No. 553).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

From Mount Gitka the western frontier goes towards Mount Crni Vrh by the mountains of Karvena Jabuka, following the former administrative limit of the Sandjak of Sofia in the upper part of the basins of Egrisu and of the Lepnica, ascends with it the crests of Babina Polana, and reaches Mount Crni Vrh.*

Boundary between Bulgaria and Servia.

From Mount Crni Vrh the frontier follows the watershed between the Struma and the Morava by the summits of the Strešer, Vilogolo, and Mešid Planina, rejoins by the Gačina, Crna Trava, Darkovska, and Drainica Plan, then the Deščani Kladanec, the watershed of the High Sukowa and of the Morava, goes straight to the Stol, and descends from it so as to cut the road from Sofia to Piro, 1,000 metres north-west of the village of Seguša.† It ascends in a straight line the Vidlic Planina and thence Mount Radočina in the chain of the Kodža Balkan, leaving to Servia the village of Doikinci, and to Bulgaria that of Senakos.

From the summit of Mount Radočina the frontier follows towards the west the crest of the Balkans by Ciprovec Balkan and Stara Planina up to the former eastern frontier (*l'ancienne frontière orientale*) of the Principality of Servia, near to the Kula Smiljova Čuka, and thence that former frontier as far as the Danube, which it rejoins at Rakovitza.

Bulgaria. Delimitation by European Commission. Balkan Frontiers of Eastern Roumelia. Non-erection of Fortifications.

This delimitation shall be fixed on the spot by the European Commission, on which the Signatory Powers shall be represented.‡ It is understood—

1. That this Commission will take into consideration the necessity for His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to be able to defend the Balkan frontiers of Eastern Roumelia.§

2. That no fortifications may be erected within a radius of 10 kilom. from Samakow.

* See also Article XXXVI, page 2787.

† See Protocol, Servian Boundary Commission, No. 12, 30th May, 1879 (No. 550), page 2882; and Act, Servian Boundary, 19th August, 1879 (No. 551), page 2884.

‡ See Act, 20th September, 1879 (No. 553).

§ See also Article XV, page 2776.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Bulgaria. Election of Prince. Exclusion of Members of Reigning Dynasties of Great European Powers.

ART. III. The Prince of Bulgaria shall be freely elected by the population and confirmed by the Sublime Porte, with the assent of the Powers.* No member of the Reigning Dynasties of the Great European Powers may be elected Prince of Bulgaria.

Bulgaria. Election of Prince in case of a Vacancy.

In case of a vacancy in the princely dignity, the election of the new Prince shall take place under the same conditions and with the same forms.

Bulgaria. Assembly of Notables to draw up Organic Law at Tirnovo.

ART. IV. An Assembly of Notables of Bulgaria,† convoked at Tirnovo,‡ shall, before the election of the Prince, draw up the Organic Law of the Principality.§

Rights and Interests of different Populations to be considered.

In the districts where Bulgarians are intermixed with Turkish, Roumanian, Greek, or other populations, the rights and interests of these populations shall be taken into consideration as regards the elections and the drawing up of the Organic Law.

Bulgaria. Basis of Public Law.

ART. V. The following points shall form the basis of the public law of Bulgaria:—

Bulgaria. Civil and Political Rights. Exercise of Professions and Industries by all, irrespective of Religious Creeds.

The difference of religious creeds and confessions shall not

* Prince Alexander of Battenberg, son of Prince Alexander of Hesse, was elected Prince of Bulgaria, with Hereditary Right, by the Assembly of Notables, at Tirnovo, 29th April, 1879, and assumed the Government 28th June, 1879; the election was confirmed by a Firman of the Sultan 25th July, 1879 ("State Papers," Vol. 72), and was assented to by the Powers individually. On the 21st August, 1886, Prince Alexander was forcibly carried off; but he returned and resumed power on the 29th of the same month. On the 7th September he abdicated the Throne, when a Provisional Regency was established. See also note, page 2777, and Manifesto of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg of August 12, 1887.

† Elected 31st December, 1878.

‡ 26th February 1879.

§ The Bulgarian Constitution was adopted and promulgated at Tirnovo on the 1st/₂ 4th April, 1879 (No. 547); suspended 10th May, 1881; modifications ratified 13th July, 1881; and re-established 18th September, 1883.

be alleged against any person as a ground for exclusion or incapacity in matters relating to the enjoyment of civil and political rights, admission to public employments, functions, and honours, or the exercise of the various professions and industries in any locality whatsoever.

Bulgaria. Freedom of Religious Worship.

The freedom and outward exercise of all forms of worship are assured to all persons belonging to Bulgaria, as well as to foreigners, and no hindrance shall be offered either to the hierarchical organization of the different communions, or to their relations with their spiritual chiefs.

Bulgaria. Provisional Administration by a Russian Commissary, assisted by a Turkish Commissary and by Consuls delegated by the Powers, until completion of Organic Law.

ART. VI. The provisional administration of Bulgaria shall be under the direction of an Imperial Russian Commissary until the completion of the Organic Law.* An Imperial Turkish Commissary, as well as the Consuls delegated *ad hoc* by the other Powers, signatory of the present Treaty, shall be called to assist him so as to control the working of this provisional régime. In case of disagreement amongst the Consular Delegates, the vote of the majority shall be accepted, and in case of a divergence between the majority and the Imperial Russian Commissary or the Imperial Turkish Commissary, the Representatives of the Signatory Powers at Constantinople, assembled in Conference, shall give their decision.

Bulgaria. Provisional Régime not to extend beyond Nine Months.

ART. VII. The provisional régime shall not be prolonged beyond a period of nine months from the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty.†

Bulgaria. Prince to be elected as soon as Organic Law is completed.

When the Organic Law is completed the election of the Prince

* The Bulgarian Constitution was adopted and promulgated on the 28th April, 1879 (*see Note, page 2769*). *See also* Convention between Bulgaria and Russia of 28th July, 1883, as to payment of expenses of occupation (No. 602).

† Ratifications exchanged at Berlin, with the exception of the Turkish, 3rd August, 1878. The Turkish Ratifications were exchanged at Berlin on the 28th August, 1878.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

of Bulgaria shall be proceeded with immediately. As soon as the Prince shall have been installed, the new organization shall be put into force, and the Principality shall enter into the full enjoyment of its autonomy.*

Bulgaria. Commercial Treaties, &c., between Foreign Powers and the Porte, to remain in force.

ART. VIII. The Treaties of Commerce and of Navigation as well as all the Conventions and arrangements concluded between Foreign Powers and the Porte, and now in force, are maintained in the Principality of Bulgaria, and no change shall be made in them with regard to any Power without its previous consent.

Bulgaria. No Transit Duties to be levied.

No transit duties shall be levied in Bulgaria on goods passing through that Principality.

Bulgaria. Equality of treatment for the Subjects, Citizens, and Commerce of all the Powers.

The subjects and citizens and commerce of all the Powers shall be treated in the Principality on a footing of strict equality.

Bulgaria. Immunities and Privileges of Foreigners. Consular Jurisdiction and Protection.

The immunities and privileges of foreigners, as well as the rights of Consular jurisdiction and protection as established by the Capitulations and usages, shall remain in full force so long as they shall not have been modified with the consent of the parties concerned.

Bulgaria. Tribute to Suzerain Court. Amount to be fixed by Signatory Powers.

ART. IX. The amount of the annual Tribute which the Principality of Bulgaria shall pay to the Suzerain Court—such amount being paid into whatever bank the Porte may hereafter designate—shall be fixed by an agreement between the Powers Signatory of the present Treaty at the close of the first year of the working of the new organization. This Tribute shall be calcu-

* See Russian Proclamations of ^{11th}/_{23rd} April, 1879. "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 711.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

lated on the mean revenue of the territory of the Principality.*

Bulgaria. Portion of Ottoman Public Debt to be paid by the Principality.

As Bulgaria is to bear a portion of the Public Debt of the Empire, when the Powers fix the Tribute, they shall take into consideration what portion of that Debt can, on the basis of a fair proportion, be assigned to the Principality.†

Bulgaria. Acceptance of Obligations towards Rustchuck-Varna Railway Company.

ART. X. Bulgaria takes the place of the Imperial Ottoman Government in its undertakings and obligations towards the Rustchuck-Varna Railway Company, dating from the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty. The settlement of the previous accounts is reserved for an understanding between the Sublime Porte, the Government of the Principality, and the administration of this Company.‡

Bulgaria. Acceptance of Obligations in respect of other Railways of European Turkey in Principality.

The Principality of Bulgaria likewise, so far as it is concerned, takes the place of the Sublime Porte in the engagements which the latter has contracted, as well towards Austria-Hungary as towards the Company, for working the Railways of European Turkey in respect to the completion and connection, as well as the working of the Railways situated in its territory.§

Bulgaria. Railway Conventions to be concluded with Austria-Hungary, the Porte, and Servia.

The Conventions necessary for the settlement of these questions shall be concluded between Austria-Hungary, the Porte, Servia, and the Principality of Bulgaria immediately after the conclusion of peace.||

* See Law of Eastern Roumelia, 20th December, 1882 (No. 596); and Arrangement between the Porte and Bondholders, 20th December, 1881 (No. 591).

† See Arrangement between the Porte and Bondholders of 20th December, 1881 (No. 591).

‡ See Agreement, 4th December, 1885.

§ See Note to Art. XXXVIII, page 2788

|| See Conventions, Austria-Hungary and Servia, 8th July, 1878, note, page 2788; and 9th April, 1880 (No. 562). See also Convention 9th May, 1883 (No. 601).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Bulgaria. Turkish Evacuation. Demolition of Fortresses.

ART. XI. The Ottoman army shall no longer remain in Bulgaria; all the old fortresses shall be razed at the expense of the Principality within one year or sooner if possible;* the local Government shall immediately take steps for their demolition, and shall not construct fresh ones.

Bulgaria. Disposal of War Material, &c., in Fortresses of Danube, Shumla, and Varna.

The Sublime Porte shall have the right of disposing as it likes of the war material and other effects belonging to the Ottoman Government which may have remained in the fortresses of the Danube already evacuated in virtue of the Armistice of the 31st January (No. 515), as well as of those in the strongholds of Shumla and Varna.

Bulgaria. Right of Non-resident Mussulman Proprietors and others to hold Real Property.

ART. XII. Mussulman proprietors or others who may take up their abode outside the Principality may continue to hold there their real property, by farming it out, or having it administered by third parties.†

Bulgaria. State Property and Religious Foundations (Vakoufs). Appointment of a Turco-Bulgarian Commission.

A Turco-Bulgarian Commission shall be appointed to settle, within a period of two years, all questions relative to the mode of alienation, working, or use on the account of the Sublime Porte, of property belonging to the State and religious foundations (vakoufs), as well as of the questions regarding the interests of private persons engaged therein.‡

Bulgarians travelling or dwelling in other parts of Turkey, subject to Ottoman Authorities and Laws.

Persons belonging to the Principality of Bulgaria, who shall travel or dwell in the other parts of the Ottoman Empire, shall be subject to the Ottoman authorities and laws.

* These fortresses have not yet been demolished (January, 1889).

† Organic Statute, 26th April, 1879, "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 759.

‡ No such arrangement has yet been made (January, 1889).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Eastern Roumelia. Formation of Province under a Christian Governor-General.

ART. XIII. A province is formed south of the Balkans which will take the name of "Eastern Roumelia,"* and will remain under the direct political and military authority of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, under conditions of administrative autonomy. It shall have a Christian Governor-General.

Eastern Roumelia. Boundaries.

ART. XIV. Eastern Roumelia is bounded on the north and north-west by Bulgaria, and comprises the territories included by the following line:—

Boundary between Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria.†

Starting from the Black Sea the frontier follows upwards from its mouth the mid-channel of the brook near which are situated the villages of Hodžakiöj, Selam-Kiöj, Aivadžik, Kulibe, Sudžuluk, crosses obliquely the Valley of the Deli Kamčik, passes south of Belibe and Kemhalik, and north of Hadžimahale, after having crossed the Deli-Kamčik at $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilom. above Cengei; reaches the crest at a point situated between Tekenlik and Aidos-Bredza, and follows it by Karnabad Balkan, Prisevica Balkan, Kazan Balkan to the north of Kotel as far as Demir Kapu. It proceeds by the principal chain of the Great Balkan, the whole length of which it follows up to the summit of Kosica.

At this point the western frontier of Roumelia leaves the crest of the Balkan, descends southwards between the villages of Pirtop and Dužanci—the one being left to Bulgaria and the other to Eastern Roumelia, as far as the brook of Tuzlu Dere, follows that stream to its junction with the Topolnica, then the latter river until it meets the Smovskio Dere near the village of Petričevo, leaving to Eastern Roumelia a zone with a radius of 2 kilom. above that junction, ascends between the brooks of Smovskio Dere and the Kamenica, following the line of the watershed so as to turn to the south-west at the level of Voinjak and reach directly the point 875 of the Austrian Staff map.

* See also Art. XVII, page 2776; and Protocols of Conferences at Constantinople, from 23rd December, 1876, to 20th January, 1877 (No. 477).

† See map facing page 2775. This Boundary Commission sat from 18th April till 24th September, 1879 (No. 554). The Boundary Act was signed 14th August, 1879 (No. 549).

The frontier line cuts at right angles the upper basin of the brook of Ichtiman Dere, passes between Bogdina and Karaúla, so as to rejoin the line of the watershed separating the basins of the Isker and the Marica, between Čamurli and Hadžilar, follows that line by the summits of Velina Mogila, the “col” 531, Zmailica Vrh, Sumnatica, and rejoins the administrative boundary of the Sandjak of Sofia between Sivri Taš and Čadir Tepe.

*Southern Boundary of Eastern Roumelia.**

The frontier of Roumelia leaves that of Bulgaria at Mount Čadir Tepe, following the line of the watershed between the basins of the Marica and of its affluents on one side, and of the Mesta Karasu and of its affluents on the other, and takes the direction south-east and then south along the crest of the Despoto Dagħ Mountains, towards Mount Kruschowa (whence starts the frontier line of the Treaty of San Stefano).

From Mount Kruschowa the frontier is the same as the line laid down by the Treaty of San Stefano,† that is to say, the chain of the Black Balkans (Kara Balkan), the mountains Kulaghy-Dagħ, Eschek-Tschepellü, Karakolas, and Ischiklar, from whence it descends due south-east till it reaches the River Arda, and follows the mid-channel of this river up to a point close to the village of Adacali, which remains to Turkey.

From this point the frontier line ascends the crest of the Beštepe-Dagħ, which it follows, then descends and crosses the Maritza, at a point situated 5 kilom. above the bridge of Mustafa Pasha; thence it takes a northerly direction by the line of the watershed between Demirhanli Dere and the small affluents of the Maritza to Küdeler Baır, whence it runs east to Sakar Baır; from this point it crosses the valley of the Tundža in the direction of Büyük Derbend, which is left to the north, as also is Soudzak. From Büyük Derbend it regains the line of the watershed between the affluents of the Tundža on the north and those of the Maritza on the south, up to the level of Kaibilar, which is included in Eastern Roumelia, and passes to the south of V. Almali between the basin of the Maritza to the south and the various streams which flow straight into the

* This Boundary Commission sat from 28th October till 9th December, 1878 (No. 537), and again from 21st April till 25th October, 1879 (No. 555). The Boundary Act was signed 25th October, 1879 (No. 556).

† See page 2680.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Black Sea, between the villages of Belevrin and Alatli; it follows to the north of Karanlik the crests of Vosna and Zuvak, the line which separates the waters of the Duka and those of the Karagac-Su, and rejoins the Black Sea between those two rivers.

Eastern Roumelia. Right of Sultan. Fortifications on Frontiers (Balkan Passes).*

ART. XV. His Majesty the Sultan shall have the right of providing for the defence of the land and sea frontiers of the province by erecting fortifications on those frontiers, and maintaining troops there.†

Eastern Roumelia. Maintenance of Internal Order. Irregular Troops, Bashi-Bazouks, and Circassians.

Internal order is maintained in Eastern Roumelia by a native gendarmerie assisted by a local militia.

In forming these corps, the officers of which are nominated by the Sultan, regard shall be paid in the different localities to the religion of the inhabitants.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan undertakes not to employ irregular troops, such as Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, in the garrisons of the frontiers. The regular troops detailed for this service must not in any case be billeted on the inhabitants. When they pass through the province they shall not make a stay there.

Eastern Roumelia. Right to summon Ottoman Troops in case of need. Powers to be informed.

ART. XVI. The Governor-General shall have the right of summoning the Ottoman troops in the event of the internal or external security of the province being threatened. In such an eventuality the Sublime Porte shall inform the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople of such a decision, as well as of the exigencies which justify it.

Eastern Roumelia. Governor-General to be nominated by the Porte, with assent of Powers, for Five Years.

ART. XVII. The Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia

* See Statute for Eastern Roumelia, 26th April, 1879 (No. 546), and "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 759. See also Protocol of Constantinople Conference of 5th April, 1886, respecting the administration of the Mussulman villages in the Canton of Kirdjali and in the Rhodope District; in lieu of the stipulation contained in this paragraph.

† This right has not yet been put in force by the Sultan (January 1889).

shall be nominated by the Sublime Porte, with the assent of the Powers, for a term of five years.*

Eastern Roumelia. Appointment of European Commission to arrange organization. Duties of Commission.

ART. XVIII. Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty, a European Commission shall be formed to arrange, in concert with the Ottoman Porte, the organization of Eastern Roumelia. This Commission will have to determine, within three months, the powers and functions of the Governor-General, as well as the administrative, judicial, and financial system of the province, taking as its basis the various laws for the vilayets and the proposals made in the eighth sitting of the Conference of Constantinople (No. 477).

Eastern Roumelia. Firman to be communicated to the Powers.

The whole of the arrangements determined on for Eastern Roumelia shall form the subject of an Imperial Firman, which will be issued by the Sublime Porte, and which it will communicate to the Powers.†

Eastern Roumelia. European Commission to administer Finances of Province.

ART. XIX. The European Commission shall be charged to administer, in concert with the Sublime Porte, the finances of the province until the completion of the new organization.

* On the 16th May, 1879, a Turkish Firman was issued nominating Aleko Pasha Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia for five years ("State Papers," Vol. 71, page 701); and at the expiration of that period another Firman was issued (16th May, 1884) appointing Gabriel Pasha Crestovitch Governor-General for a like period; but on the 18th September, 1885, a Revolution broke out, when Crestovitch was deposed, a Provisional Government formed, and Prince Alexander of Battenberg proclaimed Governor-General. By Protocol 8, § 1 (April 5, 1886) of the Conferences held at Constantinople between the Treaty Powers, including Turkey, it was agreed that the "Governor-Generalship of Eastern Roumelia should be intrusted to the Prince of Bulgaria." See also Note, page 2769.

† In August, 1878, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff and the Earl of Donoughmore were appointed British Members of this Commission, which sat from 30th September, 1878, till 3rd June, 1879 (No. 548). The Organic Statute was signed by all the Treaty Powers on the 26th April, 1879 (No. 546), and confirmed by a Firman on the 16th May following. See Note to Art. XXIII.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Eastern Roumelia. Treaties, &c., between Foreign Powers and the Porte, to remain in force. Immunities and Privileges of Foreigners. Religious Liberty.

ART. XX. The Treaties, Conventions, and international arrangements of any kind whatsoever, concluded or to be concluded between the Porte and foreign Powers, shall apply in Eastern Roumelia as in the whole Ottoman Empire. The immunities and privileges acquired by foreigners, whatever their status, shall be respected in this province. The Sublime Porte undertakes to enforce there the general laws of the Empire on religious liberty in favour of all forms of worship.

Eastern Roumelia. Rights and Obligations of Turkey with regard to Railways.

ART. XXI. The rights and obligations of the Sublime Porte with regard to the Railways of Eastern Roumelia are maintained in their integrity.*

Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. Russian Occupation.

ART. XXII. The strength of the Russian corps of occupation in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, which shall be composed of six divisions of infantry and two divisions of cavalry, shall not exceed 50,000 men. It shall be maintained at the expense of the country occupied.† The army of occupation will preserve its communications with Russia not only through Roumania, in accordance with arrangements to be concluded between the two States, but also through the ports of the Black Sea, Varna, and Bourgas, where it may, during the period of occupation, organize the necessary depôts.

Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. Period of Occupation.

The period of the occupation of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria by the Imperial Russian troops is fixed at nine months from the date of the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty.‡

* See Note to Art. XXXVIII, page 2788.

† See Conventions between Russia and Turkey of 14th May, 1882 (No. 592), and between Russia and Bulgaria of 28th July, 1883 (No. 602), respecting War Indemnities.

‡ On the 23rd April, 1879, Proclamations were issued by the Emperor of Russia to the Bulgarians of the Principality, and to the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, announcing the commencement of the evacuation of the Principality and Province by Russian troops. See "State Papers," Vol. 70 page 711.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Roumania. Period for Russian Evacuation.

The Imperial Russian Government undertakes that within a further period of three months the passage of its troops across Roumania shall cease, and that Principality shall be completely evacuated.*

Crete. Application of Organic Law of 1868.

ART. XXIII. The Sublime Porte undertakes scrupulously to apply in the Island of Crete the Organic Law of 1868† with such modifications as may be considered equitable.‡

Organic Laws. Laws similar to Organic Law for Crete to be introduced into other parts of Turkey in Europe, except exemption from Taxation.

Similar laws adapted to local requirements, excepting as regards the exemption from taxation granted to Crete, shall also be introduced into the other parts of Turkey in Europe for which no special organization has been provided by the present Treaty.§

Organic Laws. Special Commission to settle details of new Laws.

The Sublime Porte shall depute special Commissions, in which the native element shall be largely represented, to settle the details of the new laws in each province.

The schemes of organization resulting from these labours shall be submitted for examination to the Sublime Porte, which, before promulgating the Acts for putting them into force, shall consult the European Commission instituted for Eastern Roumelia.||

Greece. Rectification of Frontier. Powers may offer Mediation in case of Disagreement between Turkey and Greece.

ART. XXIV. In the event of the Sublime Porte and Greece being unable to agree upon the rectification of frontier suggested in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin (No. 528), Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, and

* The Evacuation commenced on the 3rd May, 1879, and by the 1st August, 1879, all the Russian troops had quitted the Principality.

† Appendix.

‡ Firman issued 25th October, 1878 (No. 535).

§ No such laws have yet been issued (January 1889).

|| See Act of European Commission of 23rd August, 1880 (No. 575), approving Draft of new Organic Law for European Provinces of Turkey (Roumelia).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Russia reserve to themselves to offer their mediation to the two parties to facilitate negotiations.*

Bosnia and Herzegovina. To be occupied and administered by Austria-Hungary, Sandjak of Novi-Bazar excepted, with right of Austria-Hungary to keep Garrisons, and to have Military and Commercial Roads.

ART. XXV. The Provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be occupied and administered by Austria-Hungary.† The Government of Austria-Hungary, not desiring to undertake the administration of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar,‡ which extends between Servia and Montenegro in a south-easterly direction to the other side of Mitrviotza, the Ottoman Administration will continue to exercise its functions there. Nevertheless, in order to assure the maintenance of the new political state of affairs, as well as freedom and security of communications, Austria-Hungary reserves the right of keeping garrisons and having military and commercial roads in the whole of this part of the ancient Vilayet of Bosnia. To this end the Governments of Austria-Hungary and Turkey reserve to themselves to come to an understanding on the details.

* See Joint Note to Porte, 11th June, 1880 (No. 566); Protocols of Conferences, June-July, 1880 (No. 568); Award, 1st July, 1880 (No. 569), Procès Verbal, 27th March, 1881 (No. 582); and Treaty, 24th May, 1881 (No. 584).

On the 2nd February, 1878, the Greek Government gave orders for its troops to cross the Turkish frontier, declaring that, as Thessaly was in a state of insurrection, it had decided to send its Army there, with a view to protect Christians and Mussulmans alike; but on the 7th of the same month an order was issued to the troops to recross the frontier.

† On the 28th July, 1878, an Austrian Proclamation was issued to the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the entrance of Austrian troops into those territories ("State Papers," Vol. 69, page 1107). On the following day the Austrian troops crossed the Save at Gradoska and Brod, and on their crossing from Dalmatia into Herzegovina, a few days later, an armed insurrection took place, which lasted till the end of September. On the 9th November, 1878, an Austrian Proclamation of Amnesty was issued to the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina who had taken part in the insurrection against Austrian troops. "State Papers," Vol. 69, page 1124. See also Austrian Law, 22nd February, 1880 (No. 561).

‡ On the 21st April, 1879, a Convention was signed between Austria and Turkey, by which it was agreed that Austria should give notice before sending troops to Novi Bazar (No. 545). In September, 1879, the Austrian troops occupied the Sandjak of Novi Bazar; and on the 20th December following, a Law was passed including Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Austria-Hungarian Customs Union.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Montenegro. Independence.

ART. XXVI. The independence of Montenegro is recognized by the Sublime Porte and by all those of the High Contracting Parties who had not hitherto admitted it.

Montenegro. Conditions:—Civil and Political Rights, &c. Exercise of Professions and Industries by all, irrespective of Religious Creeds.

ART. XXVII. The High Contracting Parties are agreed on the following conditions:—

In Montenegro the difference of religious creeds and confessions shall not be alleged against any person as a ground for exclusion or incapacity in matters relating to the enjoyment of civil and political rights, admission to public employments, functions, and honours, or the exercise of the various professions and industries in any locality whatsoever.

Montenegro. Freedom of Religious Worship.

The freedom and outward exercise of all forms of worship shall be assured to all persons belonging to Montenegro, as well as to foreigners, and no hindrance shall be offered either to the hierarchical organization of the different communions, or to their relations with their spiritual chiefs.

*Montenegro. Boundaries.**

ART. XXVIII. The new frontiers of Montenegro are fixed as follows:—

* See map facing page 2782 and others attached to Documents mentioned hereunder.

The Boundary Commissioners sat from 30th April till 8th September, 1879 (No. 552), but were unable to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty. On the 12th April, 1880, a Protocol was signed between the Porte and the Prince of Montenegro, whereby it was agreed that Turkey should accept the Kuci Kraina in lieu of the Mussulman part of Gusinje Plava. This is known as the "Corti Compromise" (No. 563). On the 18th April, 1880, a Protocol was signed at Constantinople between the Representatives of the Treaty Powers, consenting to this departure from the Treaty of Berlin (No. 564). The Turkish authorities, however, failed to carry out this arrangement at once, and compromised the Agreement by allowing the Albanians to occupy certain frontier positions which had been assigned to the Montenegrins. A Joint Note upon the subject was addressed by the Ambassadors of the Treaty Powers to the Porte, on the 11th June, 1880 (No. 566). See Agreements of 28th January, 1881 (No. 580), 10th January, 1883 (No. 597), August–September 1883 (No. 603), 21st December, 1884 (No. 605); and Arrangement of November 1887; also Note respecting Spizza, page 2783.

Starting at Ilino-brdo to the north of Klobuk, the line descends to the Trebinjčica towards Grančarevo, which remains to Herzegovina, then ascends the course of that river up to a point 1 kilom. below its confluence with the Čepelica, and from thence passes by the most direct line on to the heights which border the River Trebinjčica. It then proceeds in the direction of Pilatova, leaving that village to Montenegro, and continues along the heights in a northerly direction, maintaining as far as possible a distance of 6 kilom. from the Bilek-Korito-Gacko road, up to the "col" between the Somina Planina and Mount Čurilo, whence it proceeds in an easterly direction by Vratkoviči, leaving this village to Herzegovina, up to Mount Orlina. Starting from this point the frontier, leaving Ravno to Montenegro, goes straight to the north-north-east, crossing the summits of the Leberšnik and of the Volujak, then descends by the shortest line on to the River Piva, which it crosses, and rejoins the River Tara, passing between Crkvica and Nedvina. From this point it ascends the Tara to Mojkovac, from which place it passes along the crest of the ridge as far as Šiškojezero. Leaving this point, it coincides with the former frontier as far as the village of Sekulare. From there the new frontier passes along the crests of the Mokra Planina, the village of Mokra remaining to Montenegro; it then reaches the point 2166 on the Austrian Staff Map, following the principal chain and the line of the watershed between the Lim on the one side, and the Drin as well as the Cievna (Zem) on the other.

It then coincides with the existing boundaries between the tribe of the Kuči-Drekaloviči on one side, and the Kučka-Krajna, as well as the tribes of the Klementi and Grudi, on the other, to the plain of Podgorica,* from whence it proceeds towards Plavnica, leaving the Klementi, Grudi, and Hoti tribes to Albania.

Thence the new frontier crosses the lake near the Islet of Gorica-Topal, and, from Gorica-Topal, takes a straight line to the top of the crest, whence it follows the watershed between Megured and Kalimed, leaving Mrkovič to Montenegro, and reaching the Adriatic at V. Kruči.

On the north-west the frontier will be formed by a line

* Podgoritzza surrendered to the Montenegrins on the 8th February, 1879. (See British Notification of 18th March, 1879, in "State Papers," Vol. 70, p. 241.)



All the names of places have been taken
 from the Austrian Staff Map.
 Protocol N° 19, July 12 1878.

Stanford's Geographical Establishment

Map of
MONTENEGRO
to illustrate
Articles XXVI-XXXIII of the Treaty of Berlin

passing from the coast between the villages of Sušana and Zubči, and terminating at the extreme south-east point of the existing frontier of Montenegro on the Vrsuta Planina.

Montenegro. Annexation of Antivari and its Sea-board. Conditions:—Dulcigno;* Spizza;† Navigation of the Boyana;* Port of Antivari; No Ships of War; No Flag of War; Fortifications, Commerce, &c.*

ART. XXIX. Antivari and its sea-board are annexed to Montenegro under the following conditions:—

The districts situated to the south of that territory, in accordance with the delimitation above laid down, as far as the Boyana, including Dulcigno, shall be restored to Turkey.

The Commune of Spiča,† as far as the southernmost point of the territory indicated in the detailed description of the frontiers, shall be incorporated with Dalmatia.

Montenegro shall have full and complete freedom of navigation on the Boyana. No fortifications shall be constructed on the course of that river except such as may be necessary for the local defence of the stronghold of Scutari, and they shall not extend beyond a distance of 6 kilom. from that town.

Montenegro shall have neither ships of war nor flag of war.

The port of Antivari and all the waters of Montenegro shall remain closed to the ships of war of all nations.

The fortifications situated on Montenegrin territory between the lake and the coast shall be razed, and none shall be rebuilt within this zone.

The administration of the maritime and sanitary police, both at Antivari and along the coast of Montenegro, shall be carried out by Austria-Hungary by means of light coast-guard boats.

Montenegro shall adopt the maritime code in force in Dalmatia. On her side Austria-Hungary undertakes to grant Consular protection to the Montenegrin merchant flag.

Montenegro shall come to an understanding with Austria-Hungary on the right to construct and keep up across the new Montenegrin territory a road and a railway.

* See Note, page 1880.

† The district of Spizza was incorporated with the Kingdom of Dalmatia by an Austrian Law, dated 15th April, 1879 (No. 544). See also Protocols of 8th September, 1879, and 4th February, 1881, respecting the Limits of Spizza (No. 581).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Absolute freedom of communication shall be guaranteed on these roads.

Montenegro. Right of Non-resident Mussulmans and others to hold Real Property.

ART. XXX. Mussulmans or others possessing property in the territories annexed to Montenegro, who may wish to take up their residence outside the Principality, can retain their real property either by farming it out, or by having it administered by third parties.*

Montenegro. Indemnity on Expropriation.

No one shall be liable to be expropriated otherwise than by legal process for the public welfare, and with a previous indemnity.

Montenegro. Turco-Montenegrin Commission to settle mode of Alienation.

A Turco-Montenegrin Commission shall be appointed to settle, within a period of three years, all questions relative to the mode of alienation, working, or use, on the account of the Sublime Porte, of property belonging to the State and religious foundations (Vakoufs), as well as of the questions regarding the interests of private parties engaged therein.†

Montenegro. Appointment of Agents at Constantinople and other Places.

ART. XXXI. The Principality of Montenegro shall come to a direct understanding with the Ottoman Porte with regard to the establishment of Montenegrin agents at Constantinople, and at certain places in the Ottoman Empire where the necessity for them shall be admitted.

Montenegrins travelling in Turkey to be subject to Ottoman Laws and Authorities.

Montenegrins travelling or residing in the Ottoman Empire shall be subject to the Ottoman laws and authorities, according to the general principles of international law, and the customs established with regard to Montenegrins.

* An arrangement respecting Emigrants was made between Turkey and Montenegro October 21, 1880, which was approved January 20, 1888.

† No such arrangement has yet been made (January, 1889).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Montenegrin Troops to evacuate Turkish Territory.

ART. XXXII. The Montenegrin troops shall be bound to evacuate within twenty days from the date of the ratification of the present Treaty, or sooner if possible, the territory that they occupy at present beyond the new limits of the Principality.*

Montenegrin Territories to be evacuated by Ottoman Troops.

The Ottoman Troops shall evacuate the territories ceded to Montenegro within the same period of twenty days. A supplementary period of fifteen days shall, however, be granted to them, as well for evacuating the fortresses and withdrawing the stores and material of war from them, as for drawing up inventories of the implements and articles which cannot be immediately removed.†

Montenegro. Payment of portion of Ottoman Public Debt.

ART. XXXIII. As Montenegro is to bear a portion of the Ottoman public debt for the new territories assigned to her by the Treaty of Peace, the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople shall determine the amount of the same in concert with the Sublime Porte on an equitable basis.‡

Servia. Conditional recognition of Independence.

ART. XXXIV. The High Contracting Parties recognise the independence of the Principality of Servia, subject to the conditions set forth in the following Article.§

Servia. Civil and Political Rights. Exercise of Professions and Industries by all, irrespective of Religious Creeds.

ART. XXXV. In Servia the difference of religious creeds and confessions shall not be alleged against any person as a ground for exclusion or incapacity in matters relating to the enjoyment of civil and political rights, admission to public employments,

* Dulcigno, &c. The Evacuation took place on the 8th February, 1879.

† Spuz, Zabliak, Podgoritza, &c., were also evacuated by the Ottoman troops on the same day (8th February, 1879).

‡ This question still remains unsettled (January, 1889).

§ On the 22nd August, 1878, Servia proclaimed its Independence (*see* "State Papers," Vol. 69, page 1109), and on the 3rd March, 1879, a British Minister was accredited to the Prince. On the 6th March, 1882, the Prince on the invitation of the Skuptchina, assumed the title of King.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

functions, and honours, or the exercise of the various professions and industries, in any locality whatsoever.

Servia. Freedom of Religious Worship.

The freedom and outward exercise of all forms of worship shall be assured to all persons belonging to Servia, as well as to foreigners, and no hindrance shall be offered either to the hierarchical organization of the different communions, or to their relations with their spiritual chiefs.

*Servia. Boundaries.**

ART. XXXVI. Servia receives the territories included in the following delimitation:—

Boundary between Servia and Bosnia: Little Zvornik and Sakhar.†

The new frontier follows the existing line ascending the mid-channel of the Drina from its confluence with the Save, leaving Mali Zvornik and Sakhar to the Principality, and continues to follow the former boundary of Servia as far as the Kopaonik, leaving it at the *summit of the Kanilug*.‡ From that point it follows at first the western boundary of the Sandjak of Nisch by the *southern spur of the Kopaonik*,‡ by the crests of the Marica and Mrdar Planina, which form the watershed between the basins of the Ibar and Sitnica on one side, and that of the Toplica on the other, leaving Prepolac to Turkey.

Boundary between Servia and Turkey (Macedonia).

It then turns to the south by the watershed between the Brvenica and the Medvedja, leaving the whole of the basin of the Medvedja to Servia; follows the crests of the Goljak Planina (which forms the watershed between the Kriva-Rjeka on one side, and the Poljanica, Veternica, and Morawa on the other), as far as the summit of the Poljanica. It then follows the spur of the Karpina Planina as far as the confluence of the Koinska and the Morawa, crosses this river, and ascends by the watershed between the Koinska brook and the stream which falls into the Morawa near Neradovce, to reach the Sv. Ilija Planina above

* See Map facing page 2787.

† The Boundary Commission sat from 22nd October till 17th November, 1878 (No. 536), and from 12th May till 19th August, 1879 (No. 550).

‡ No places found by Boundary Commission answering to this description. See Boundary Acts, 19th August, 1879 (No. 551).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Trgovište. Thence it follows the crest of the Sv. Ilija as far as Mount Kljuc, and passing by the points marked 1516 and 1547 on the map, and by the Babina Gora, it reaches Mount Crni-Vrh.*

Boundary between Servia and Bulgaria.†

From Mount Crni-Vrh the new delimitation coincides with that of Bulgaria, that is to say:—

The line of frontier follows the watershed between the Struma and the Morawa by the summits of Strešer, Vilogolo, and *Mešid Planina*, rejoins by the *Gačina*, *Crna Trava*, *Dar-kovska*, and *Drainica Plan*,‡ then the Deščani Kladanec, the watershed of the High Sukowa and of the Morawa, goes straight to the Stol, and descends from it so as to cut the road from Sofia to Pirot, 1,000 metres north-west of the village of Seguša. It ascends in a straight line the Vidlič Planina, and thence *Mount Radočina* in the chain of the Kodža Balkan, leaving to Servia the village of Doikinci, and to Bulgaria that of Senakos.

From the summit of Mount Radočina the frontier follows towards the north-west the crest of the Balkans by Ciprovac Balkan and Stara Planina up to the former eastern frontier (*l'ancienne frontière orientale*) of the Principality of Servia, near to the Kula Smiljova Čuka, and thence that former frontier as far as the Danube, which it joins at Rakovitza.

Servia. Commercial Intercourse with Foreign Countries.

ART. XXXVII. Until the conclusion of fresh arrangements no change shall be made in Servia in the actual conditions of the commercial intercourse of the Principality with foreign countries.§

Servia. No Transit Duties to be levied.

No transit duties shall be levied on goods passing through Servia.

* See also Art. II, page 2786; and Explanatory Note to Act of 19th August, 1879 (No. 551).

† This Commission sat from 22nd October till 17th November, 1878 (No. 536), and again from 12th May till 19th August, 1879 (No. 550).

‡ No such places were to be found by the Boundary Commission. See Boundary Act, 19th August, 1879 (No. 551). See also Act 20th September, 1879 (No. 553).

§ A Treaty of Commerce was concluded between Great Britain and Servia on the 7th February, 1880. See "Hertslet's Treaties," Vol. 15, page 342. Commercial Treaties have also been concluded between Servia and other Foreign Powers.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Servia. Immunities and Privileges of Foreigners. Consular Jurisdiction and Protection.

The immunities and privileges of foreign subjects, as well as the rights of Consular jurisdiction and protection, as at present existing, shall remain in full force so long as they shall not have been modified by mutual consent between the Principality and the Powers concerned.*

Servia. Acceptance of Engagements of the Porte with regard to Railways in the Principality (Balkan Railways).

ART. XXXVIII. The Principality of Servia takes the place, so far as it is concerned, of the Sublime Porte in the engagements which the latter has contracted as well towards Austria-Hungary as towards the Company for the working of the Railways of Turkey in Europe,† in respect to the completion and connection, as well as the working of the Railways to be constructed on the territory newly acquired by the Principality.

Servia. Conventions respecting Railways to be concluded with Austria-Hungary, the Porte, and Bulgaria.

The Conventions necessary for settling these questions shall be concluded, immediately after the signature of the present Treaty, between Austria-Hungary, the Porte, Servia, and, within the limits of its competency, the Principality of Bulgaria.†

* Several countries have concluded Consular Conventions with Servia, and copies of them are to be found in the "State Papers." See also Convention between Great Britain and Servia consenting, conditionally, to the abolition of the Capitulations, 7th February, 1880 (No. 560).

† On the ^{26th June,}_{8th July,} 1878, a Convention was concluded between Austria-Hungary and Servia, by which the Government of Austria-Hungary engaged to connect within three years its Railway System with that of Servia, at Belgrade; the Servian Government engaging, on its part, to join and work, in conformity with the decision of the Congress, the projected Railway Lines which diverged towards the ancient frontier of Alexinitza, on one side, by Bellova, and on the other, by way of Salonica-Mitrovitza. It also engaged to construct and work a junction line between Belgrade and Nisch. The two Governments further engaged to act together to form junction lines with the Ottoman and Bulgarian Railways; and agreed that after the conclusion of peace, a Commission, composed of Delegates from Austria-Hungary, Servia, Turkey, and Bulgaria, should meet at Vienna in order to draw up the necessary Convention on the subject. By the same Convention,

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Servia. Right of Non-resident Mussulman Proprietors and others to hold Real Property.

ART. XXXIX. Mussulmans possessing property in the territories annexed to Servia, who may wish to reside outside the Principality, may retain their real property, either by farming it out or by having it administered by third parties.

Servia. Appointment of a Turco-Servian Commission. Religious Foundations, &c. (Vakoufs).

A Turco-Servian Commission shall be appointed to settle, within a period of three years, all questions relative to the mode of alienation, working, or use, on the account of the Sublime Porte, of the property belonging to the State and religious foundations (Vakoufs), as well as of the questions regarding the interests of private persons engaged therein.

Servians travelling or residing in Turkey.

ART. XL. Until the conclusion of a Treaty between Turkey and Servia, Servian subjects travelling or residing in the Ottoman Empire shall be treated according to the general principles of international law.*

Servian Troops to evacuate Turkish Territory.

ART. XLI. The Servian troops shall be bound to evacuate within fifteen days from the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty the territory not comprised within the new limits of the Principality.

Servia. Evacuation of Ceded Territories by Ottoman Troops.

The Ottoman troops shall evacuate the territories ceded to Servia within the same term of fifteen days. A supplementary term of an equal number of days shall, however, be granted to them as well for evacuating the fortresses and withdrawing the

Austria-Hungary undertook to execute the works at the Iron Gates and the Cataracts at Orsova, without asking for any financial assistance from—the Principality of Servia. See "State Papers," Vol. 69, page 612. See also Convention between Austria-Hungary and Servia of 9th April, 1880 (No. 562), and Convention between Austria-Hungary, Servia, Turkey, and Bulgaria, of 9th May, 1883 (No. 601).

* On the 4th September, 1886, a provisional Consular Arrangement was concluded between Turkey and Servia.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

provisions and material of war as for drawing up the inventory of the implements and objects which cannot be removed at once.

Servia. Payment of portion of Ottoman Public Debt.

ART. XLII. As Servia is to bear a portion of the Ottoman Public Debt for the new territories assigned to her by the present Treaty, the Representatives at Constantinople shall fix the amount of it in concert with the Sublime Porte on an equitable basis.*

Roumania. Conditional recognition of Independence.

ART. XLIII. The High Contracting Parties recognize the independence of Roumania, subject to the conditions set forth in the two following Articles.†

Roumania. Civil and Political Rights. Exercise of Professions and Industries by all, irrespective of Religious Creeds.

ART. XLIV. In Roumania the difference of religious creeds and confessions shall not be alleged against any person as a ground for exclusion or incapacity in matters relating to the enjoyment of civil and political rights, admission to public employments, functions, and honours, or the exercise of the various professions and industries in any locality whatsoever.‡

Roumania. Freedom of Religious Worship.

The freedom and outward exercise of all forms of worship shall be assured to all persons belonging to the Roumanian State, as well as to foreigners, and no hindrance shall be offered either to the hierarchical organization of the different communions, or to their relations with their spiritual chiefs.‡

Roumania. Equal Treatment to Foreigners.

The subjects and citizens of all the Powers, traders or others,

* This question still remains unsettled (January, 1889).

† Roumania had proclaimed its Independence on the ^{22nd May,} 3rd June, 1877 (No. 502). The Prince assumed the title of "Royal Highness" in September, 1878. On the 20th February, 1880, Identical Notes were presented by the British, French, and German Representatives at Bucharest to the Roumanian Government, recognizing the independence of the Principality ("State Papers," Vol. 71, p. 1187); and on the 26th March, 1881, the Prince assumed the title of King.

‡ See Roumanian Law, 25th October, 1879 (No. 557).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

shall be treated in Roumania, without distinction of creed, on a footing of perfect equality.*

Roumania. Restoration to Russia of portion of Bessarabian Territory, detached from Russia in 1856.†

ART. XLV. The Principality of Roumania restores to His Majesty the Emperor of Russia that portion of the Bessarabian territory detached from Russia by the Treaty of Paris of 1856, (No. 264) bounded on the west by the mid-channel of the Pruth, and on the south by the mid-channel of the Kilia Branch and the Stary-Stamboul mouth.‡

Roumania. Acquisition of Islands forming Delta of the Danube; the Isle of Serpents; the Sandjak of Toultscha; and a portion of Territory to the South of the Dobroutcha.†

ART. XLVI. The islands forming the Delta of the Danube, as well as the Isle of Serpents, the Sandjak of Toultscha, comprising the districts (cazas) of Kilia, Soulina, Mahmoudié, Isaktchá, Toultscha, Matchin, Babadagh, Hirsovo, Kustendje, Medjidié (Nos. 264, 276), are added to Roumania. The Principality receives in addition the territory situated to the south of the Dobroutcha as far as a line starting from the east of Silistria and terminating on the Black Sea, south of Mangalia.§

* The Constitution of Roumania of 30th June, 1866 ("State Papers," Vol. 57, page 263) contained the following clause with regard to the Naturalization of Foreigners and religious equality: "VII. Foreigners of Christian rites can alone obtain naturalization;" but in October, 1879, the Roumanian Chamber revised this Clause. See Decree, 25th October, 1879 (No. 557).

† See Map facing page 2790.

‡ On the 21st October, 1878, a Russian Proclamation was issued announcing the incorporation of Roumanian Bessarabia with Russia, and the consequent extension of the Russian Frontier to the Pruth and the Danube. ("State Papers," Vol. 69, page 1122.) On the 17th December, 1878, a Procès-Verbal was signed between Russia and Roumania for fixing the limits of the Bessarabian territory retroceded to Russia (No. 540). See also Treaty respecting the navigation of the Danube, 10th March, 1883 (No. 599).

§ On the 26th November, 1878, the Prince of Roumania issued a Proclamation on taking possession of the Dobroutcha. ("State Papers," Vol. 69, page 1125.) See also Act, 17th December, 1878; Boundary between Roumania and Bulgaria; the Dobroutcha; and Silistria to Mangalia (No. 539); and Notes, August, September, 1880 (No. 577).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Roumania. Frontier to be determined by European Commission of Bulgaria.

The frontier line shall be determined on the spot by the European Commission appointed for the delimitation of Bulgaria.

Roumania. Arbitration on Division of Waters and Fisheries.

ART. XLVII. The question of the division of the waters and the fisheries shall be submitted to the arbitration of the European Commission of the Danube.*

Roumania. No Transit Duties to be levied.

ART. XLVIII. No transit dues shall be levied in Roumania on goods passing through the Principality.

Roumania. Conclusion of Consular Conventions with regard to Protection. Maintenance of existing Rights.

ART. XLIX. Roumania shall have power to make Conventions to determine the privileges and attributes of Consuls in regard to protection within the Principality. Existing rights shall remain in force so long as they shall not have been modified by the mutual consent of the Principality and the parties concerned.†

Roumania. Rights of respective Subjects travelling or residing in Turkey and in Roumania.

ART. L. Until the conclusion of a Treaty between Turkey and Roumania, fixing the privileges and attributes of Consuls, Roumanian subjects travelling or residing in the Ottoman Empire, and Ottoman subjects travelling or residing in Roumania, shall enjoy the rights guaranteed to the subjects of other European Powers.

* See Additional Act, 28th May, 1881 (No. 585), Protocols of Conferences, 8th February to 10th March, 1883 (No. 598), and Treaty, 10th March, 1883 (No. 599).

† On the 5th April, 1880, a Commercial Treaty was concluded between Great Britain and Roumania, by Art. VIII of which it was stipulated that British Consular Officers in Roumania should enjoy whatever privileges, exemptions, and immunities were at that time, or which might thereafter be granted to Consular Officers of the most favoured Nations; but no Consular Convention has yet been concluded between the Two Countries. In May, 1887, Notes were exchanged between the Austro-Hungarian and Roumanian Governments, providing that after 1st January, 1888, Austria-Hungary would no longer protect any persons residing in Roumania who were not Austro-Hungarian subjects.

Roumania. Liability for Public Works and Enterprises in Ceded Territory.

ART. LI. With regard to public works and other enterprises of a like nature, Roumania shall be substituted for the Sublime Porte as regards its rights and obligations throughout the ceded territory.

Danube. Fortresses and Fortifications to be razed. Vessels of War not to navigate the River below the Iron Gates. Exceptions.

ART. LII. In order to increase the guarantees which assure the freedom of navigation on the Danube which is recognized as of European interest, the High Contracting Parties determine that all the fortresses and fortifications existing on the course of the river from the Iron Gates to its mouths shall be razed, and no new ones erected. No vessel of war shall navigate the Danube below the Iron Gates with the exception of vessels of light tonnage in the service of the river police and Customs. The "stationnaires" of the Powers at the mouths of the Danube may, however, ascend the river as far as Galatz.

Danube. European Commission to be maintained. Roumania to be represented thereon. Extension to Galatz. Treaties, &c., confirmed.

ART. LIII. The European Commission of the Danube on which Roumania shall be represented is maintained in its functions, and shall exercise them henceforth as far as Galatz* in complete independence of the territorial authorities. All the Treaties, arrangements, acts, and decisions relating to its rights, privileges, prerogatives, and obligations are confirmed (Nos. 264, 282, 375, 439).

Danube. Prolongation of Powers of European Commission.

ART. LIV. One year before the expiration of the term assigned for the duration of the European Commission (24th April, 1883, see No. 439, Art. IV) the Powers shall come to an understanding as to the prolongation of its powers, or the modifications which they may consider necessary to introduce.†

* Extended to Ibraila by Treaty of 10th March, 1883 (No. 599).

† See Treaty, 10th March, 1883, Art. 2 (No. 599), and Declaration, 23rd April, 1883 (No. 600).

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Danube. Regulations respecting Navigation, &c., from Iron Gates to Galatz to be drawn up by European Commission and Delegates of Riverain States.

ART. LV. The regulations respecting navigation, river police, and supervision from the Iron Gates to Galatz shall be drawn up by an European Commission, assisted by Delegates of the Riverain States, and placed in harmony with those which have been or may be issued for the portion of the river below Galatz.

Danube Commission. Lighthouse on Isle of Serpents.

ART. LVI. The European Commission of the Danube shall come to an arrangement with the proper authorities to ensure the maintenance of the lighthouse on the Isle of Serpents.

*Danube. Execution of Works at Iron Gates and Cataracts entrusted to Austria-Hungary.**

ART. LVII. The execution of the works which have for their object the removal of the obstacles which the Iron Gates and the Cataracts place in the way of navigation is entrusted to Austria-Hungary. The Riverain States on this part of the river shall afford every facility which may be required in the interest of the works.

*Danube. Provisional Tax maintained in favour of Austria-Hungary.**

The provisions of the VIth Article of the Treaty of London of the 13th March, 1871 (No. 439), relating to the right of levying a provisional tax in order to cover the cost of these works, are maintained in favour of Austria-Hungary.

Asia. Cessions by Turkey to Russia. Ardahan, Kars, Batoum, &c. Frontier Line.†

ART. LVIII. The Sublime Porte cedes to the Russian Empire in Asia the territories of Ardahan, Kars, and Batoum,‡

* See Additional Act, 28th May, 1881 (No. 585), Protocols of Conferences, 8th February, to 10th March, 1883 (No. 598), and Treaty, 10th March, 1883 (No. 599).

† See Map facing page 2795.

‡ On the 6th September, 1878, the Grand Duke Michael telegraphed to the Emperor of Russia that Russian Troops had entered Batoum that

together with the latter port, as well as all the territories comprised between the former Russo-Turkish frontier and the following line:—

The new frontier starting from the Black Sea, and coinciding with the line laid down by the Treaty of San Stefano (**No. 518**) as far as a point to the north-west of Khorda, and to the south of Artwin, continues in a straight line as far as the River Tchoroukh, crosses this river and passes to the east of Aschmichen, going in a straight line to the south so as to rejoin the Russian frontier indicated in the Treaty of San Stefano (**No. 518**), at a point to the south of Nariman, leaving the town of Olti to Russia. From the point indicated near Nariman the frontier turns to the east, passes by Tebrenec, which remains to Russia, and continues as far as the Pennek Tschaï.

It follows this river as far as Bardouz, then turns towards the south, leaving Bardouz and Jönikiöy to Russia. From a point to the west of the village of Karaougan,* the frontier takes the direction of Medjingert, continues in a straight line towards the summit of the Mountain Kassadagh, and follows the line of the watershed between the affluents of the Araxes on the north and those of the Mourad Sou on the south, as far as the former frontier of Russia.

Asia. Batoum to be a Free Port.

ART. LIX. His Majesty the Emperor of Russia declares that it is his intention to constitute Batoum a free port, essentially commercial.†

morning, that the Russian flag had been hoisted in the port, and that the Russian Authorities had taken possession of the Administration.

* See Protocol, 17th May, 1880 (**No. 565**) ; Protocols 7th June to 11th August, 1880 (**No. 573**) ; and Final Act, 11th August, 1880 (**No. 574**).

† *Batoum*.—On the 3rd July, 1886, the Russian Ambassador in London delivered to the Earl of Rosebery a Notice, announcing the intention of the Emperor of Russia to terminate the arrangement embodied in Art. LIX of the Treaty of Berlin, constituting Batoum a Free Port, but stating that it would “preserve in the future the character of a port essentially commercial.” On the 13th of the same month the Earl of Rosebery instructed Her Majesty’s Ambassador at St. Petersburg to inform M. de Giers that Her Majesty’s Government could not consent to recognize or associate themselves in any shape or form with this proceeding of the Russian Government, and that they were compelled to place on record their view that it constituted a violation of the Treaty of Berlin, unsanctioned by the Signatory Powers.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Asia. Valley of Alaschkerd and Town of Bayazid restored to Turkey.

ART. LX. The valley of Alaschkerd* and the town of Bayazid, ceded to Russia by Article XIX of the Treaty of San Stefano (No. 518), are restored to Turkey.

Asia. Cession of Khotour by Turkey to Persia.

The Sublime Porte cedes to Persia the town and territory of Khotour, as fixed by the mixed Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Turkey and of Persia.†

Asia. Improvements and Reforms in favour of Armenians. Protection against Circassians and Kurds. The Powers to be kept periodically informed.‡

ART. LXI. The Sublime Porte undertakes to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds.

It will periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers, who will superintend their application.

Religious Liberty.

ART. LXII. The Sublime Porte having expressed the inten-

* See Separate Agreement, Great Britain and Russia, 12th July, 1878 (No. 529). See also Protocol, 17th May, 1880 (No. 565), and Final Act, 11th August, 1880 (No. 574).

† A Boundary Line was suggested by the British and Russian Commissioners (Sir A. B. Kemball and General Zelenoy) in July, 1879; but it was not then carried out. But on the 12th July, 1880, a Protocol was signed by the British and Russian Commissioners (Major-General Sir E. Hamley and General Zelenoy), defining the Boundary, and a copy of the Protocol (No. 572), together with the map attached thereto, was communicated to the Porte by the British and Russian Ambassadors, in April, 1881, and to the Persian Government by the British and Russian Ministers at Teheran in May, 1883. On the 22nd and 24th May, 1883, the Persian Government and the Porte, respectively, intimated their conditional acceptance of the proposed delimitation of the territory; but difficulties afterwards ensued, and the Boundary Line has not yet been marked out on the ground.

‡ On the 11th June, 1880, an Identical Note was addressed by the Powers to the Porte, demanding the complete and immediate execution of this Engagement (No. 566), and on the 9th February, 1882, a scheme of Reforms was prepared, but it has not been carried into execution.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

tion to maintain the principle of religious liberty,* and give it the widest scope, the Contracting Parties take note of this spontaneous declaration.

Religion. Equal Civil and Political Rights.

In no part of the Ottoman Empire shall difference of religion be alleged against any person as a ground for exclusion or incapacity as regards the discharge of civil and political rights, admission to the public employments, functions and honours, or the exercise of the various professions and industries.

Religion. Evidence before Tribunals.

All persons shall be admitted, without distinction of religion, to give evidence before the tribunals.

Religious Worship.

The freedom and outward exercise of all forms of worship are assured to all, and no hindrance shall be offered either to the hierarchical organization of the various communions or to their relations with their spiritual chiefs.

Religion. Equal Rights to all Ecclesiastics, &c., travelling in Turkey

Ecclesiastics, pilgrims, and monks of all nationalities travelling in Turkey in Europe, or in Turkey in Asia, shall enjoy the same rights, advantages, and privileges.

Religion. Protection of Ecclesiastics, &c., by Diplomatic and Consular Agents of the Powers.

The right of official protection by the Diplomatic and Consular Agents of the Powers in Turkey is recognized both as regards the above-mentioned persons and their religious, charitable, and other establishments in the Holy Places and elsewhere.

Religion. Rights of France and status quo in Holy Places.

The rights possessed by France are expressly reserved, and it is well understood that no alterations can be made in the *status quo* in the Holy Places.

Religion. Rights and Prerogatives of all Monks of Mount Athos.

The monks of Mount Athos, of whatever country they may

* See Firman, 18th February, 1856 (No. 263) ; and Vol. III, Index, pages 2369, 2370.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

be natives, shall be maintained in their former possessions and advantages, and shall enjoy, without any exception, complete equality of rights and prerogatives.

*Maintenance of Treaties of 30 March, 1856, and 13 March, 1871 (Dardanelles and Bosphorus, &c.).**

ART. LXIII. The Treaty of Paris of March 30, 1856 (No. 264), as well as the Treaty of London of March 13, 1871 (No. 439), are maintained in all such of their provisions as are not abrogated or modified by the preceding stipulations.

Ratifications.

ART. LXIV. The present Treaty shall be ratified, and the Ratifications exchanged at Berlin within three weeks, or sooner if possible.†

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it, and affixed to it the seal of their arms.

Done at Berlin, the thirteenth day of the month of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.†

(L.S.) BEACONSFIELD.

(L.S.) SALISBURY.

(L.S.) ODO RUSSELL.

(L.S.) v. BISMARCK.

(L.S.) BÜLOW.

(L.S.) HOHENLOHE.

(L.S.) ANDRÁSSY.

(L.S.) KÁROLYI.

(L.S.) HAYMERLE.

(L.S.) WADDINGTON.

(L.S.) SAINT-VALLIER.

(L.S.) H. DESPREZ.

(L.S.) L. CORTI.

(L.S.) LAUNAY.

(L.S.) GORTCHAKOW.

(L.S.) SCHOUVALOFF.

(L.S.) P. D'OUBRIL.

(L.S.) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

(L.S.) MEHEMED ALI.

(L.S.) SADOULLAH.

* See Declarations, Great Britain and Russia, 11th and 12th July, 1878 (No. 527), page 2727.

† See Procès-Verbal of 3rd August, 1878, page 2799.

[Treaty of Berlin.]

Procès-Verbal. 3rd August, 1878.

(Translation.)

Ratifications of Treaty of 13th July, 1878, exchanged between all the Powers.

THE Undersigned having met together for the purpose of exchanging the ratifications of the Treaty concluded at Berlin on the 13th July, 1878, the instruments of these ratifications confirming the said Treaty were produced by the Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., and Apostolic King of Hungary, His Excellency the President of the French Republic, His Majesty the King of Italy, and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, and having, after examination, been found in good and due form, the exchange thereof took place.

Declaration by Turkish Ambassador that the Porte considers the Treaty valid, and that Ratifications will be sent.

The Ambassador of Turkey, while expressing the regret of the Sublime Porte that the Turkish instruments of ratification could not be despatched in time, announces that he is authorized to declare that His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans has likewise ratified the Treaty of the 13th July, 1878, and that he considers the same valid from this day's date.

Sadoullah Bey announces, moreover, that the exchange of the Turkish instruments of ratification will take place within fifteen days.*

In witness whereof the Undersigned have drawn up the present *Procès-verbal*, to which they have affixed the seals of their arms.

Done at Berlin, the third day of the month of August, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

(L.S.) ODO RUSSELL.

(L.S.) RADOWITZ.

(L.S.) MOÛY.

(L.S.) LAUNAY.

(L.S.) ARAPOFF.

(L.S.) SADOULLAH.

* The Turkish Ratifications were exchanged at Berlin on the 28th August, 1878.

No. 531.—*AUSTRIAN PROCLAMATION on the Entrance of Austro-Hungarian Troops into Bosnia and the Herzegovina. 28th July, 1878.*

(Translation.)

INHABITANTS OF BOSNIA AND THE HERZEGOVINA,

THE troops of the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary are upon the point of crossing the frontiers of your country.

They come not as enemies, to take away your territory by force.

They come as friends, to put an end to the evils which for a series of years have troubled not only Bosnia and the Herzegovina, but also the neighbouring countries.

The Emperor and King has learnt with grief that civil war is desolating this beautiful country, that the inhabitants of the same province are struggling together with arms in their hands, that commerce and employment are suspended, that your flocks are carried away, that your fields remain without cultivation, and that misery has invaded both town and country.

Great and cruel events have deprived your Government of the power of re-establishing among you in a durable manner the calm and union on which the welfare of the people depends.

The Emperor and King could no longer remain a passive spectator of the violence and discord which reigned in the neighbourhood of his provinces, any more than of the poverty and misery which knocked at the door of his States.

He has called the attention of the European States to your situation, and it has been unanimously decided in the Council of the People that Austria-Hungary shall give back to you the calm and prosperity of which you have been so long deprived.

His Majesty the Sultan, animated with the desire of providing for your welfare, has decided to entrust you to the protection of his powerful friend the Emperor and King. The Imperial and Royal troops are therefore coming amongst you. They do not bring you war; they come, on the contrary, to give you back peace.

Our arms will be a protection to each one of you, and to no one an instrument of oppression.

[Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

The Emperor and King has ordered that all the children of this country shall enjoy the same legal rights; that all shall receive protection for their lives, their creed, and their property.

Your laws and your institutions shall not be arbitrarily modified; your manners and your customs shall be respected.

No violent change shall be introduced without your desires having been maturely considered.

The ancient laws shall be in vigour as long as new ones shall not have been made.

It is expected on the part of all the authorities, both civil and religious, that they will maintain order and support the Government.

The revenues of this country shall be exclusively employed to provide for the wants of the country itself.

The taxes in arrear for the last year shall not be recovered.

The troops of the Emperor and King shall not oppress the country, and shall not be a burden upon it. They will pay ready money to the inhabitants for all they may require.

The Emperor and King is aware of your complaints, and desires your welfare.

Numerous races live united under his powerful sceptre, and each of them speak their own language. He reigns over the faithful of diverse creeds, and all freely practise their religions.

INHABITANTS OF BOSNIA AND THE HERZEGOVINA !

Place yourselves with confidence under the protection of the glorious standard of Austria-Hungary. Receive our soldiers as friends, obey the authorities, resume your work, and you will obtain protection for the fruit of your labours.

[Cyprus.]

No. 532.—*AGREEMENT between Great Britain and Turkey, defining the Powers vested in Great Britain during the British Occupation of Cyprus. Signed at Therapia, 14th August, 1878.*

The Right Honourable Sir A. Henry Layard, G.C.B., and his Highness Safvet Pasha, Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, having met together this day, have, in virtue of their full powers, signed the following Additional Article to the Convention of the 4th June, 1878 [No. 524], signed by them as Plenipotentiaries of their respective Governments.

*Powers vested in Great Britain during Occupation of Cyprus.
Laws, Conventions, Commercial and Consular Affairs.*

It is understood between the High Contracting Parties, without prejudice to the express provisions of the Articles I, II, and IV of the Annex of the 1st July, 1878 (No. 525), that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, in assigning the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England, has thereby transferred to and vested in Her Majesty the Queen, for the term of the occupation and no longer, full powers for making Laws and Conventions for the Government of the island in Her Majesty's name, and for the regulation of its Commercial and Consular relations and affairs free from the Porte's control.

Done at Constantinople, the 14th day of August, 1878.

A. H. LAYARD.
SAFVET.

[See also Order in Council respecting British Jurisdiction, 14th September, 1878 (No. 534); and Agreement respecting Crown Property, Revenues, &c., 3rd February, 1879 (No. 541). For Orders in Council respecting the Neutrality of Cyprus, Extradition, &c., see "Hertslet's Treaties," Vol. XV, pages 108, 120, and 131.]

No. 533.—*REPORT of the International Commission appointed to enquire into the State of the Rhodope Districts. Buyukdéré, 27th August, 1878.*

[At the sitting of the Congress of Berlin (Protocol No. 18, 11th July, 1878, **No. 528**) it was decided that a Commission should be appointed to inquire into the state of the Rhodope Districts.

On the 17th of the same month a Memorandum was drawn up by the Ambassadors of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, at Constantinople, for the appointment of such a Commission.

The Special Commissioners were—

For Great Britain, Mr. Fawcett, Consul-General and Judge of the British Consular Court, Constantinople.

For Austria-Hungary, Colonel Raab, Military Attaché to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy.

For France, M. Challet, Consul.

For Germany, M. Müller, Vice-Consul.

For Italy, M. Graziani, Second Dragoman of the Italian Legation.

For Russia, M. Basily, Second Secretary (who was succeeded by M. Leschine, Dragoman of the Russian Embassy).

Naschid Pasha, Ex-Governor of the Vilayet of Syria, and Riza Bey, being the Turkish Delegates.

The Commissioners visited various districts, and, on their return, Identical Reports were drawn up by the British, French, Italian, and Turkish Commissioners at Buyukdéré on the 27th August, 1878, and presented to their respective Ambassadors; but the Commissioners of Austria, Germany, and Russia refused to adopt the Report.

The correspondence which passed respecting the proceedings of the International Commission sent to the Mount Rhodope Districts was laid before Parliament on the 15th August and 6th December, 1878, accompanied by a map,* and the Report is given in the "State Papers," Vol. 69, p. 1112.]

* See Parliamentary Papers, Turkey, Nos. 49, 50, and 52 (1878).

No. 534.—*BRITISH ORDER IN COUNCIL, defining the Powers and Jurisdiction of Great Britain over the Island of Cyprus. Balmoral, 14th September, 1878.**

1. Appointment of High Commissioner.
2. Duties of High Commissioner.
3. Seal of High Commissioner.
4. Legislative Council.
5. Laws and Ordinances.
- 6-16. Constitution of Legislative Council. Its proceedings, &c.
17. } Laws and Ordinances.
18. }
19. }
20. Land Grants.
21. Appointment of Judges, Justices of the Peace and others.
22. Power of High Commissioner over Judicial Sentences.
23. Power of High Commissioner to remit Fines in certain cases.
24. Power of High Commissioner to suspend Officials.
25. Executive Council.
26. Acting High Commissioner.
27. Cessation of Orders in Council relating to *Ottoman* Dominions.
28. Commencement and Duration of Order in Council.

(Extract.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the exercise of the power and jurisdiction vested by Treaty in Her Majesty the Queen in and over the Island of Cyprus (**Nos. 524, 525, 531**).

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue of the powers in this behalf by the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts, 1843 to 1878, or otherwise in Her vested, is pleased by and with the advice of Her Privy Council to order, and it is ordered, as follows:—

Appointment of a High Commissioner.

I. There shall be a High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief (hereinafter called “the High Commissioner”) in and over the said Island of Cyprus (hereinafter called “the said Island”), and the person who shall fill the said office of High Commissioner shall be from time to time appointed by Commission under Her Majesty’s Sign-Manual and Signet.

* For a complete copy of this Order in Council see “State Papers,” Vol. 69, page 720.

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Duties of High Commissioner.

II. The High Commissioner shall administer the government of the said Island in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, and shall do and execute in due manner all things that shall belong to his said command and to the trust thereby reposed in him, according to the several powers and authorities granted or appointed to him by virtue of this Order, and of such Commission as may be issued to him under Her Majesty's Sign-Manual and Signet, and according to such instructions as may from time to time be given to him, under Her Majesty's Sign-Manual and Signet, or by Order of Her Majesty in Council, or by Her Majesty through one of Her Principal Secretaries of State, and according to such Laws and Ordinances as are or shall hereafter be in force in the said Island.

Seal of High Commissioner.

III. The High Commissioner shall have an Official Seal bearing the style of his office, and such device as one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State from time to time approves, and such seal shall be deemed the public seal of the said Island, and may be kept and used by the High Commissioner for the sealing of all things whatsoever that shall pass the seal of the said Island. And until a public seal shall be provided for the said Island, the seal of the High Commissioner may be used as the public seal of the said Island for sealing all things that shall pass the said seal.

Legislative Council.

IV. There shall be in the said Island a Legislative Council, constituted as hereinafter mentioned.

Laws and Ordinances.

V. It shall be lawful for the High Commissioner, with the advice of the said Legislative Council, to make all such Laws and Ordinances, as may from time to time be necessary for the peace, order, and good government of the said Island, subject, nevertheless, to all such instructions as Her Majesty may from time to time issue under Her Sign-Manual and Signet for the guidance of the High Commissioner and of the said Legislative Council therein: Provided, nevertheless, that full authority is

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hereby reserved to Her Majesty, through one of Her Principal Secretaries of State to confirm or disallow any such Laws and Ordinances as aforesaid in the whole or in part, and to make and establish from time to time, with the advice of Her Privy Council, all such Laws or Ordinances as may to Her appear necessary for the peace, order, and good government of the said Island as fully as if this Order has not been made.

[VI to XVI, Constitution of Legislative Council, Proceedings, &c.]

Laws and Ordinances.

XVII. No Law or Ordinance made by the High Commissioner with the advice of the said Legislative Council shall take effect until the High Commissioner shall have assented thereto in the name of Her Majesty and on Her behalf, and shall have signed the same in token of such assent.

Laws and Ordinances.

XVIII. Notwithstanding anything in this Order contained, it shall be lawful for the High Commissioner, in cases of emergency, to make and proclaim, from time to time, Ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the said Island, subject, however, to the disallowance of the whole or any part thereof by Her Majesty through one of Her Principal Secretaries of State; and every such Ordinance shall have like force of law with an Ordinance made by the High Commissioner with the advice of the said Legislative Council as by this Order provided, for the space of not more than six months from its promulgation, unless the disallowance of such Ordinance by Her Majesty shall be earlier signified to the High Commissioner by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, or unless such Ordinance shall be controlled or superseded by a Law or Ordinance made by the High Commissioner with the advice of the said Legislative Council.

Laws and Ordinances.

XIX. Any Law or Ordinance, or any part thereof, made by the High Commissioner, with the advice of the said Legislative Council, or of his own authority by Proclamation as aforesaid, which shall be disallowed by Her Majesty under the provisions hereinbefore contained, shall cease to be of any force or effect so

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soon as the disallowance thereof shall be published in the said Island by the High Commissioner.

Land Grants.

XX. The High Commissioner may make and execute in Her Majesty's name and on Her behalf, under the public seal of the said Island, grants and dispositions of any lands which may be lawfully granted or disposed of by Her Majesty within the said Island.

Appointment of Judges, Justices of the Peace and others.

XXI. The High Commissioner may constitute and appoint all such Judges, Justices of the Peace, and other necessary officers in the said Island as may lawfully be appointed by Her Majesty, all of whom shall hold their offices during Her Majesty's pleasure.

Power of High Commissioner over Judicial Sentences.

XXII. The High Commissioner may, as he shall see occasion, in Her Majesty's name and on Her behalf, grant to any offender convicted of any crime in any Court, or before any Judge, Justice, or Magistrate within the said Island, a free and unconditional pardon, or a pardon subject to such conditions as may at any time be lawfully thereunto annexed, or any respite of the execution of the sentence of any such offender for such period as to him may seem fit.

Power of High Commissioner to remit Fines in certain cases.

XXIII. The High Commissioner may, as he shall see occasion, in Her Majesty's name and on Her behalf, remit any fines, penalties, or forfeitures which may accrue or become payable to Her, provided the same do not exceed the sum of fifty pounds sterling in any one case, and may suspend the payment of any such fine, penalty, or forfeiture exceeding the said sum of fifty pounds, until Her Majesty's pleasure thereon shall be made known and signified to him.

Power of High Commissioner to suspend Officials.

XXIV. The High Commissioner may, upon sufficient cause to him appearing, suspend from the exercise of his office within the said Island any person exercising the same,

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which suspension shall continue and have effect only until Her Majesty's pleasure therein shall be made known and signified to the High Commissioner. And in proceeding to any such suspension, he is to observe the directions in that behalf given to him by any such instructions under Her Majesty's Sign-Manual and Signet as may be hereafter addressed to him.

Executive Council.

XXV. There shall be in the said Island, for the purpose of advising the High Commissioner, an Executive Council, which shall be composed of such persons and constituted in such manner as may be directed by any instructions which may from time to time be addressed to the High Commissioner by Her Majesty, under Her Sign-Manual and Signet, and all such persons shall hold their places in the said Council during Her Majesty's pleasure; and the said Executive Council shall observe such rules in the conduct of business as may from time to time be contained in any such instructions as aforesaid.

Acting High Commissioner.

XXVI. In the event of the death, incapacity, removal, or absence from the said Island of the High Commissioner for the time being, all and every the powers and authorities herein granted to him shall, until Her Majesty's further pleasure is signified therein, be vested in such person as may be appointed to administer the same by any instrument under Her Majesty's Sign-Manual and Signet; or if there be not in the Island any person so appointed, then in the senior military officer for the time being in command of Her Majesty's regular troops in the said Island.

Cessation of Orders in Council relating to Ottoman Dominions.

XXVII. The following Orders of Her Majesty the Queen in Council, that is to say: the Order of the 12th day of December, 1873, for the Regulation of Consular Jurisdiction in the Dominions of the Sublime Porte;* the Order of the 13th day of May, 1875, for the Regulation of Hospital Dues levied on British Shipping within the said Dominions;† and the Order of

* See "State Papers," Vol. 63, page 59.

† See "State Papers," Vol. 66, page 149.

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the 26th day of October, 1875,* amending the said Order of the 12th day of December, 1873, shall cease to have any force and effect in the Island of Cyprus from and after a day to be named in a proclamation to be issued in the said Island by authority of the High Commissioner, with such saving and exceptions (if any) as may be contained in such proclamation.†

Commencement and Duration of Order in Council.

XXVIII. This Order shall commence and have effect as follows:—

- (a.) As to the appointment of the High Commissioner, and the issue of any instructions immediately from and after the making of this Order.
- (b.) As to all other matters and provisions comprised and contained in this Order immediately from and after a day to be named in any Proclamation to be issued in the said Island by authority of the High Commissioner.

And this Order shall remain in force until the same shall be revoked or altered by Her Majesty with the advice of Her Privy Council.

C. L. PEEL.

* See "State Papers," Vol. 66, page 150.

† This Proclamation was issued on the 11th October, 1878.

[For Orders in Council relating to the Neutrality of Cyprus, Extradition, and Appeals from the Decisions of the High Court and the Temyiz Court to Her Majesty in Council, see "Hertslet's Treaties" Vol. XV, pages 108, 120, and 131.]

No. 535.—*TURKISH FIRMAN modifying the Organic Law of Crete of January 10, 1868. October 25, 1878.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)*

(After the customary titles.)

To my Vizier Costaki Pasha, Governor-General of the Vilayet of Crete, decorated with the Imperial Order of the Médjidié of the first class.

Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, Muchir of my Imperial Army, Chief of the Staff, decorated with the Imperial Orders of the Osmanié in brilliants, and of the Médjidié of the first class, and Salim Effendi, high officer of my Empire, Councillor of the Court of Appeal, have been previously sent to Crete in virtue of my Imperial Iradé, in order to examine the requests regarding the modifications to be made in the Organic Statute granted by Firman of the 25th† Rémézan, 1284 (10th January, 1868). On the arrival of these dignitaries in Crete, the wishes of the population were examined in a Council held for this purpose, and composed of persons whose presence was necessary. The modifications to be introduced in the Statute, laid down in sixteen Articles and certain special provisions, have been drawn up in an instrument which was presented to my Sublime Porte, and of which the tenour is as follows:—

ART. I. The Special Statute of the Island of Crete is in force as heretofore (Appendix). Certain provisions only of this Statute shall be modified and completed as hereinafter stated.

The Constitution shall not annul the provisions of this Statute.

ART. II. The Governor-General is named in accordance with

* In forwarding to the Marquis of Salisbury a French translation of this Firman as agreed to between the Sultan's Commissioner and the Delegates of the National Assembly, Sir A. H. Layard drew attention to the expression "Musulmans et Chrétiens" which was constantly used in it, and said that he had suggested that it should be altered to "Musulmans, Chrétiens, et autres," in order that there might be no question as to the exclusion of Jews or others, and added that he had every reason to believe that there would be no objection on the part of the Porte.

† Qy. 15th. See "State Papers," Vol. 58, page 137, and Appendix.

the Organic Statute of the Island of Crete. The duration of his functions shall be for five years.

ART. III. The General Assembly shall be composed of eighty members, of whom forty-nine shall be Christians and thirty-one Mussulmans.

ART. IV. The annual Session of the General Assembly shall last forty days as heretofore. Nevertheless, if the Assembly cannot terminate the labours of this year within that time, the first Session may be prolonged for twenty days in addition.

The sittings shall be public.

In order to supplement the deficiencies which exist in the Ottoman legislation now in force, the General Assembly shall have the right immediately to draw up a Code of Civil and Criminal Procedure and a Communal Statute, which are still wanting, and to submit them to the approval of the Sublime Porte, who will sanction them if they do not interfere with the rights of the Imperial Government, and if they are not contrary to the principles which govern the Ottoman laws and regulations.

If it be subsequently necessary to make modifications of a nature to supply deficiencies in regulations which are now in force and are demanded by requirements of purely local interests, the General Assembly shall have the right to submit, for the approval of the Sublime Porte, the modifications decided upon by a majority of two-thirds.

The vote of the majority of two-thirds will only be applicable in the case provided for by the preceding paragraph.

ART. V. The number of Christian Kaïmakams shall exceed that of the Mussulman Kaïmakams, according to the requirements of the localities.

ART. VI. The formation of the Administrative Councils shall take place as heretofore. Nevertheless, for the future, no Government official shall be a member of them with the exception of the Governor-General, the Governors, and the Kaïmakams, who will preside as a matter of right.

ART. VII. The judicial power shall be distinct and separate from the executive.

The composition of the Tribunals shall be the same as heretofore. Nevertheless, the Assembly may submit, for the approval of the Sublime Porte, a project of reorganization

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which, while being more economical, will insure a better administration of justice.

ART. VIII. The Governor-General shall henceforth have an Adviser, who shall be a Christian if the Vali be a Mussulman, and a Mussulman if the Vali be a Christian.

ART. IX. The general correspondence of the vilayet, as also the *procès-verbaux* and "mazbatas" of the Tribunals and Councils, shall be drawn up in two languages. But as in general the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of the island speak Greek, the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Tribunals shall take place in that language.

ART. X. All officials other than the Vali shall be nominated subject to the laws and regulations in force. Natives, however, having the required qualities shall have the preference.

ART. XI. Should the General Assembly have to establish a new method of assessing the tithes, of such a nature as to protect more completely the interests of the Treasury and those of the population at the same time, they must submit it to the sanction of the Government.

ART. XII. The Imperial Government, in conformity with the Regulations, shall accept natives, whether Mussulman or Christian, who may offer themselves for the formation of the gendarmerie of the island, and shall only have recourse to other inhabitants of the Empire in the event of an insufficiency of native candidates. The Chief of the Gendarmerie (Aalāi Beyi) shall be designated by the Sublime Porte. As for the other officers, they shall be chosen by the local authorities from among the Mussulmans and Christians, conformably to the law, and their nomination shall be submitted to the sanction of the Imperial Government.

A pension fund shall be established for the officers and soldiers of the gendarmerie, and a special Regulation shall be drawn up on the subject.

ART. XIII. There shall be economy in the expenditure. The following items shall not be inserted in the budget of the island :—

The cost of the regular army, the customs duties, the taxes on salt and tobacco, as also the receipts and expenditure on account of the "vacouf" lands, which, being entered in the budget of the vilayet, are now administered by the local authorities, and which shall henceforth be administered separately.

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After the cost of the local administration has been deducted from the remainder of the revenue, the surplus shall be divided in equal parts between the Imperial Exchequer and works of public utility, which shall be determined by the General Assembly in the following order:—

1. Houses of detention.
2. Schools.
3. Hospitals.
4. Harbours and roads.

The Assembly shall have the right of examining whether the receipts and expenses have been applied according to the provisions of the budget for the year. In the event of these revenues not covering the expenditure, and if, after the employment of every administrative measure, it shall be found impossible to augment the receipts and to pay the salaries, the Imperial Government will give to the administration of the island a sum of money not exceeding half of the revenue derived from the import duties of the current financial year, to make good the deficit in the salaries.

ART. XIV. Paper money shall not be current in the island. The salaries of the officials shall be paid in specie.

ART. XV. It shall be lawful for the inhabitants of the island to found literary societies, printing presses, and to publish newspapers in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Empire.

ART. XVI. If Ministerial Ordinances are transmitted contrary to the independence of the Tribunals, to the laws in force, and to the Organic Statute of the island, these Ordinances shall not be put into execution.

Special Provisions.

A general amnesty shall be proclaimed. The arrears of taxes shall not be exacted from the cultivators. The farmers and agents of the Government who are debtors to the Exchequer shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of the Iradé previously transmitted to that effect.

The inhabitants shall be permitted to keep their arms, but no one shall have the right to carry them without the permission of the authorities.

A definitive arrangement shall be adopted for debts con-

tracted previous to the events of 1866, in order that insolvent debtors may more easily meet their engagements.

Independently of the real property which has been seized provisionally in consequence of the events of 1866, if properties of that character have been sold, the local authorities shall apply to the Porte to do what is required.

The Regulation relative to the funds for Christian orphans presented by the five Demogerontias of the island, after being examined here, shall be submitted to the sanction of the Sublime Porte.

Special offices shall be established in the island for agreements and for all acts of sale of real property other than the acts of transfer, "firaghet," as well as for the registration of mortgages and deposits.

These Articles and provisions have been discussed in the Council of Ministers, who have adopted the above modifications as being in accordance with local requirements and the exigencies of the situation.

The matter having been submitted to my Imperial sanction, I order that the present Firman, signed by my Imperial hand, shall be promulgated and published, and that it shall be duly acted upon.

The 29th Chevval, 1295 (25th October, 1878).

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha. (Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, 6th December, 1878.)

(Translation.)

Constantinople, 28th November, 1878.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

You are aware that his Excellency Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha had been sent to Canea to deliberate with the Cretan notables on the alterations to be made in the Organic Statute of that vilayet. The modifications thus settled having been submitted to the sanction of the Sovereign, his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, in his paternal solicitude for the welfare and prosperity of his people, has been graciously pleased to approve them in their entirety and to issue on this occasion a Firman, of which I transmit to you a translation herewith.

[Crete.]

The new Governor-General of the island, Alexander Carathéodory Pasha, who has already left for his post, is the bearer of this Imperial Rescript, which, while satisfying the requirements of the Cretan population, is at the same time in conformity with the stipulations of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

I have, &c.

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No. 536.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Servia, and Turkey, for defining the new Frontier of Servia, under Art. XXXVI of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). 22nd October—17th November, 1878.**

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.

PROTOCOL.

- No. 1. *French* Commissioner elected President. Questions of form to be settled by a majority of Votes: those of principle by Unanimity. Trifling Questions of principle not needing unanimous Votes, to be settled as they arise. *Servo-Bulgarian* Boundary. Labours of Commission to commence at *Vranja*. Work of Delimitation to be represented by a Sketch Map. Nisch, 22nd October, 1878.
- No. 2. Frontier line starting from confluence of the *Koïnska* (or *Krchevitza*) with the *Morava*. Decision.
Vranja, 27th October, 1878.
- No. 3. Method of proceeding with Delimitation. Actual line of water parting to be followed as nearly as possible. *Compensations de terrain* system discussed, and opinion of *Austrian* Commissioner accepted.
Vranja, 30th October, 1878.

* Informal meetings were held at Nisch on the 5th, 7th, and 8th October, before the arrival of the *Turkish* Commissioner. Parliamentary Paper, Turkey No. 2 (1879), p. 34.

The Commissioners first appointed were—

For Great Britain :	{ Major C. W. Wilson, R.E. Captain J. F. G. Ross (Assistant).
„ Austria-Hungary :	Major Bilimek.
„ France :	M. Aubaret.
„ Germany :	Major von Alten.
„ Italy :	Lieutenant-Colonel Gola.
„ Russia :	Colonel Baron Kaulbars.
„ Servia :	{ Colonel Jovanovitch. Major Velimirovitch (Assistant).
„ Turkey :	{ Brigadier-General Yahya Pacha. Colonel Djevad Bey Lieutenant-Colonel Salih Bey Major Abdul-Hamid Bey Adjutant-Major Avni Bey } Assistants.

[Servian Boundary.]

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- No. 4. Frontier line from the *Poljanica* to the confluence of the *Koïnska* with the *Morava*. Discussion. Military Defence of *Turkey*. Valley of *Davidovatz*. Delimitation on that part of Frontier suspended. Vranja, 3rd November, 1878.
- No. 5. Frontier line from the *Poljanica* to the junction of the *Koïnska* with the *Morava*. *Servian* Note protesting against decision of Commissioner.* Question settled. Vranja, 4th November, 1878.
- No. 6. Discussion on the subject of *Servian* Note read at last sitting. Orders given to *Servian* troops near *Poljanica* to retire within New Frontier. Vranja, 13th November, 1878.
- No. 7. *Servian* Note read at sitting of 4th November (Prot. No. 5) again discussed. Withdrawal of Note demanded by *British* Commissioner refused.* Neutrality of Church of St. Ilija. Labours ended for the Year, to be again taken up at *Nisch* on 10th May, 1879. Vranja, 17th November, 1878.
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* This Protest was eventually withdrawn. See Protocol No. 9, 19th May, 1879 (No. 550).

[These Conferences were resumed on the 12th of May, 1879, and were concluded on the 19th of August, 1879. See Protocols Nos. 8—23, No. 550.]

No. 537.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for defining the Southern and South-Western Frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, under Art. XIV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). 28th October—9th December, 1878.**

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.†

PROTOCOL.

No. 1. Verification of Powers. Powers of *French* Commissioner not so extensive as those of his colleagues. *Turkish* Commissioner invited to preside while Commission sits at *Constantinople*. Discussion as to election of President when Commission arrive on the ground of their labours. Formation of Secretariat. Decisions to be taken by majorities. Views of minorities to be recorded. Right reserved of accepting or refusing Diplomatic Act at the close of the work. General principles adopted respecting operations in the field. Boundary marks to be placed. *Austrian* proposal that work be commenced at the point where the frontier cuts the river *Maritza* to the west of *Mustapha Pasha*, and to proceed eastwards in the direction of *Bourgas*. *British* counter-proposition. *Austrian* proposal accepted. *Russian* declaration that an escort will be placed at disposal of Commission.

Constantinople, 28th October, 1878.

No. 2. Commission to repair to *Adrianople* on the 5th November.

Constantinople, 30th October, 1878.

No. 3. Choice of President. *Russian* Commissioner renounces his eligibility to the Presidency. *Austrian* proposition that each Commissioner should take the Presidency in turn for periods of eight days, proceeding in alphabetical order. Adopted. *German* Commissioner takes the Presidency. Commission to be accompanied

* The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain :	{ Major R. W. T. Gordon. Lieutenant de Wolski, R.E. (Assistant).
„ Austria-Hungary :	Captain Count de Wurmbrand.
„ France :	Captain Nicolas.
„ Germany :	Captain von Krahmer.
„ Italy :	Captain Tornaghi.
„ Russia :	{ Captain Eck, afterwards Captain Philippoff.
„ Turkey :	{ Colonel Chakir Bey. Le Commandant Hilmi Bey } Assistants. Nichan Effendi

† For the entire Protocols, in the French language, see “Parliamentary Paper,” Turkey, No. 2 (1879), pages 54—160.

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by *Turks* well acquainted with the country. Commission for the Organization of *Eastern Roumelia* informed by letter of arrival of Delimitation Commission, and of the point (near *Mustapha Pasha*) where operations would be commenced and whence continued.

Adrianople, 6th November, 1878.

- No. 4. *Russian* topographer put at disposal of Commission. *British* proposal that Lieutenant de Wolski and Major Hilmi Bey should precede the Commission, in order to furnish indications for fixing the tracing of the frontier. Proposition suspended awaiting information as to escort for those officers. Vote of thanks to *Russian* topographer and to Lieutenant de Wolski and Major Hilmi Bey for assistance. Mustapha Pasha, 9th November, 1878.

- No. 5. Commission assemble at a point ascertained by Lieutenant de Wolski to be 5 kilom. above *Mustapha Pasha*. *Russian* Commissioner thinks that distance should have been measured by following the windings of the river, and not by a straight line. *Turkish* Commissioner considers it should be taken as the crow flies. *Turkish* opinion adopted by 6 to 1. *Russian* proposal that the difference between the two distances thus measured should be divided. *French* proposal that the mouth of a ravine, 50 mètres distant from the point obtained by Lieutenant de Wolski, should be settled upon as the starting-point. Adopted. Escort ready to accompany Lieutenant de Wolski and Major Hilmi Bey when making reconnaissances. *British* proposition brought forward in preceding sitting adopted. Escort. 10th November, 1878.

- No. 6. Proposal adopted to designate numerically the points fixed by Commission: Work of *Russian* topographer to be verified each day by Commission. Question as to necessity of making a sketch-map (*levé*) of the whole of the Frontier. Discussion. Question suspended for two days. Sketch-map of Frontier from point 1 to point 3 examined and accepted.

Mustapha Pasha, 11th November, 1878.

- No. 7. *French* proposal to take the road from *Mustapha Pasha* to *Yahchib-eili* as a limit for that part of the Frontier. *Russian* Commissioner thinks the geometrical line of the water-parting should be followed. *French* proposal rejected. Points 4 to 10 determined. 12th November, 1878.

- No. 8. Discussion as to interval which should occur between the points marked by the Commission. *French* declaration that it is necessary only to mark the most important points; it being understood, however, that between these points the Frontier follows the line of water-parting, and not a straight line. Commission agree with opinion of *French* Commissioner. Points 11 to 19 determined. *Russian* topographer to inscribe on the plan the names of the localities which the Frontier crosses, and to be accompanied by some of the people of the country, who will

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furnish him with the necessary information. *Austrian* Commissioner takes the Presidency. Vote of thanks to late President. Question of sketch-map (*levé*) raised in sitting of 11th November settled as follows:—The *Russian* topographer should follow the Commission, marking on his map the points determined upon; but verification of the map considered useless.

Godeler, 13th November, 1878.

- No. 9. Reconnaissance at *Gudeler-Bair* and valley of *Demirhanli*.

14th November, 1878.

- No. 10. *German* proposal to determine the Frontier as far as possible by means of natural lines (crests of mountains or valleys) accepted. Frontier fixed between *Gudeler-Bair*, *Béréket-Bair*, *Sakkar-Bair*, and *Mangal-Tépé*. Points 20 to 26. *Austrian* proposal to mark the limits of the Frontier on the Vienna Geographical Institute map, rejected.

15th November, 1878.

- No. 11. Delimitation of Frontier from *Mangal-Tépé* to *Yenitcheri-Tépé*. Points 27 to 36.

16th November, 1878.

- No. 12. Reconnaissance in neighbourhood of *Yenitcheri-Tépé* and *Soudzak*. *Russian* Commissioner desires that Commission should consider the interests of the inhabitants of the village of *Soudzak*, when delimiting that part of the Frontier. Discussion thereon.

17th November, 1878.

- No. 13. *Soudzak* and *Dervich-Tépé*. Frontier from *Yenitcheri-Tépé* to *Kodja-Bair*. Points 37 to 39. Indisposition of *Russian* Commissioner. *British* Commissioner states that Lieutenant de *Wolski* will pursue his operations in the direction of the *Toundja*.

18th November, 1878.

- No. 14. *Russian* Commissioner wishes the Frontier to the south of *Soudzak* to be more carefully studied, and the whole of the village to be connected with *Eastern Roumelia*. Question to be settled by the aid of the inhabitants of *Soudzak* and *Dervich-Tépé*.

Soudzak, 19th November, 1878.

- No. 15. Attempted examination of boundary-marks separating the villages of *Soudzak* and *Dervich-Tépé*. Return to *Soudzak* on account of heavy mist.

20th November, 1878.

- No. 16. Boundary-marks between *Soudzak* and *Dervich-Tépé* surveyed. Views of Commissioners. Title Deeds of those Villages. *French* Commissioner takes Presidency. Vote of thanks to late President.

21st November, 1878.

- No. 17. Frontier fixed from *Kodja-Bair* to point 42 in the bed of the *River Carabache-Déré*. Points 40 to 42 determined.

22nd November, 1878.

- No. 18. Frontier line fixed to within 5 kilom. of the *Toundja*.

23rd November, 1878.

- No. 19. Frontier line fixed as far as the *Toundja*.

24th November, 1878.

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- No. 20. *Russian* topographer to prolong the Frontier line from the *Toundja* to *Buyuk-Derbend*. 25th November, 1878.
- No. 21. Reconnaissance to the east of *Buyuk-Derbend*. *Russian* topographer continues tracing the line from *Soudzak* to *Buyuk-Derbend*. 26th November, 1878.
- No. 22. Reconnaissance to the south-east of *Buyuk-Derbend*. Suspension of labours of Commission owing to the hostile attitude of *Bulgarians* assembled at *Buyuk-Derbend*. *Russian* Commissioner proposes that Commission should interrogate the representatives of the mob. Proposal rejected by Commission. Commission return to *Buyuk-Derbend*. Discussion on the situation. Commission decide to wait for the arrival of the Chef de l'Arrondissement. 27th November, 1878.
- No. 23. *Russian* Commissioner reads Report to his Ambassador respecting the situation. Commission finds it impossible to continue its labours, and decides to repair to *Adrianople*, in order that each Commissioner may confer with his Ambassador. *British* Commissioner (Major Gordon) takes Presidency. Vote of thanks to late President. Frontier line from the bed of the *Carabasch-Déré* near *Soudzak*, to the river *Toundja* settled definitely by majority. *Buyuk-Derbend*, 28th November, 1878.
- No. 24. Commission start for *Adrianople*. *Bulgarians* present petition, which is refused by Commission. *British* Commissioner protests against the surrounding of his house by the mob. *Russian* Commissioner gives orders, and the crowd retires. Akbounar, 29th November, 1878.
- No. 25. *Russian* Commissioner states that Colonel Tichménieff has been ordered to *Buyuk-Derbend* in order to procure submission of the people, and proposes that Commission should also repair there. *British* Commissioner refuses to do so, and proposes that Commission should set out for *Constantinople*. *British* proposal accepted by 6 to 1. Akbounar, 30th November, 1878.
- No. 26. *Italian* Commissioner assumes Presidency. Thanks to late President. Constantinople, 6th December, 1878.
- No. 27. *Russian* Commissioner, President. *British* Commissioner announces his intention of returning to *London*. President thinks that Commission should adjourn until next year. Commissioners agree. *Turkish* Commissioner insists that the work of delimitation be resumed as soon as possible. Commission decide to adjourn to the 15th of April, 1879. Constantinople, 9th December, 1878.

[This Commission met again on the 21st April, 1879, and sat until the 25th of October of that year. See Protocols Nos. 28 to 56 (No. 555).]

No. 538.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia,* and Turkey, for defining the Boundary between Roumania and Bulgaria (the Dobrutsha, Silistria to Mangalia), under Article II of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). 21st October—17th December, 1878.†*

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.‡

PROTOCOL.

No. 1. Presentation of Powers by Commissioners. *British and Turkish Commissioners have full powers. Russian reservation respecting decisions by majorities. German, Austrian, Italian, and Turkish Commissioners declare their powers to be restricted, as in the case of Russian Commissioner. British Commissioner announces that, notwithstanding his full powers, his Government reserves full liberty of action by analogy with restricted Powers of other Commissioners. Separate Commission for Delimitation of Southern Frontier of Eastern Roumelia. Names of Commissioners. (See page 2818.) Discussion as to nomination of President. French proposal that Turkish Commissioner should be named President. Austrian amendment that Turkish Commissioner be President so long as Commission remain at Constantinople; a new election to*

* The Russian Commissioners did not sign the Final Act (No. 539), but the adhesion of Russia to it, as modified, was signified in a Note, dated $\frac{1}{2}$ th August, 1880 (No. 577).

† The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain :	Colonel Robert Home, R.E. Captain F. C. H. Clarke, R.A., Assistant. Major J. C. Ardagh, R.E., Assistant and Secretary. Captain C. W. Murray Lieutenant H. C. Chermiside, R.E. } Assistants.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Lieutenant-Colonel Baron de Ripp.
„ France :	Le Commandant J. V. Lemoyne. Captain G. Marmier (Assistant and Secretary).
„ Germany :	Colonel von Scherff.
„ Italy :	{ Lieutenant-Colonel Orero. Captain Tornaghi.
„ Russia :	Colonel Bogolubow. Captain D. F. Soubotitch (Assistant and Secretary).
„ Turkey :	Brigadier-General Tahir Pacha. Lieutenant-Colonel Vessim Bey. Major Nazim Bey. Simon Effendi (Papasian), Assistant and Secretary. Major Hassan Bey and Adjutant-Major Mehemet Ali Effendi.

Captain Chéráfétin Effendi.

‡ For the entire Protocols, in the French language, see Parliamentary Paper Turkey, No. 2 (1879).

[Boundary. Roumania and Bulgaria.]

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take place when Commissioners are about to depart for the scene of their labours. Amendment carried. Declaration of Tahir Pacha that the principal interests of *Turkey* consist in the preservation of strategic points necessary for defence of the *Balkans*. Formation of Secretariat. Decisions to be taken by majorities. Views of minority to be recorded. *Bulgaro-Servian* Frontier to be traced by *Servian* Boundary Commission (Nos. 536, 550). Labours of present Commission to commence with *Roumano-Bulgarian* Frontier. Constantinople, 21st October, 1878.

- No. 2. Delimitation of *Dobrudscha* Frontier. *Italian* Commissioner's opinion. Discussion. *French* Commissioner submits the following proposition, to vote (a) "Is it the mission of the Commission to fix in detail the Frontiers settled in a general manner by the text of the Treaty of Berlin," or (b) "also to fix and trace these Frontiers upon the spot?" First paragraph (a) voted; second (b) rejected. Constantinople, 23rd October, 1878.

- No. 3. Presentation of Captain Clarke to Commission as Secretary to *British* Commissioner. Constantinople, 24th October, 1878.

- No. 4. Presentation of Captain Marmier as Assistant and Secretary to *French* Commissioner. Topographical Officers placed by *Roumanian* Government at disposal of Commission. Decision of Commission to admit *Roumanian* Delegates to a hearing at a convenient opportunity. Choice of New President. Discussion. *Turkish* Commissioner re-elected by vote. *Russian* Memorandum respecting starting point on the *Danube* near *Silistria* of *Bulgaro-Roumanian* Frontier. Discussion. *Roumanian* Delegates admitted. Discussion as to position of bridge over the *Danube* near *Silistria*.
Silistria, 3rd November, 1878.

- No. 5. Reconnaissance in the neighbourhood of *Silistria* resolved upon. On board the "Jul," on the *Borcia*, 4th November, 1878.

- No. 6. Memorandum by *Roumanian* Delegates respecting site of Bridge and starting point of new Frontier. Discussion. *French* proposition that the starting point should be near *Silistria*. *Russian* proposition that it should be at *Dékitchéni*. Importance of *Kalarasch*. *Russian* proposal rejected. Adoption of *French* proposal. Commission agree by vote to hold as nearly as possible to the principle of the straight line, and that Compensations be based on ethnographical and economical considerations. With the exception of *Russian* Representative, Commission also decide that starting point be fixed to the east of *Silistria*.
Silistria, 5th November, 1878.

- No. 7. *British* Commissioner proposes to annex to Protocol 6 a tracing (*levé*) fixing the starting point of new Frontier. Proposal adopted. Petition from inhabitants of *Silistria* and neighbourhood to be returned. Commission incompetent to receive similar petitions.
Silistria, 6th November, 1878.

- No. 8. Captain Soubotitch, *Russian* Assistant Commissioner and Secretary, presented to Commission. Report read of proceedings of Com-

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mission between *Silistria* and *Mangalia*. Roumanian Memorandum respecting communication between the two banks of the *Danube* and the possession of *Silistria* by *Roumania*, and submission of a tracing of the new Frontier line. Discussion on Frontier line from *Silistria* to the *Black Sea*. *British* proposition, and tracing of Boundary. Termination of Frontier line on the *Black Sea* to be marked by a tumulus south of the Mill of *Ilanlik*. *British* proposition and tracing accepted.

Constantinople, 26th November, 1878.

- No. 9. Sketch Plans by *Russian* Topographers submitted. Report of preparation of Diplomatic Act. Offer of *British* Commissioner to have the plans prepared in *London*, and copies sent to the Signatory Powers of *Berlin* Treaty. Offer accepted.

Constantinople, 30th November, 1878.

- No. 10. Dissimilarity between *Austrian* Staff Map and Plan drawn up by Secretariat, with reference to Frontier line between *Silistria* and *Ilanlik*. Discussion. *Russian* proposal that the *British* proposition adopted in Protocol 8 should be reconsidered. *British* amendment, that it is unnecessary to reconsider the decision, put to the vote and adopted by 6 to 1 (*Russian* Commissioner). *Russian* proposition rejected.

Constantinople, 3rd December, 1878.

- No. 11. Commission to suspend its work after signature of Diplomatic Act, and to meet again on 15th April, 1879*; in the interval the Secretariat to collect all documents that may be useful in Delimitation operations in the *Balkans*. Commissioners engage to search for Maps for consultation in said operations.

Constantinople, 9th December, 1878.

- No. 12. Report read of the labours of Secretariat. Following documents presented to Commission :—Act fixing *Roumano-Bulgarian* Frontier (No. 539) ; Notice fixing the starting point of *Roumano-Bulgarian* Frontier line to the east of *Silistria*;† and description of Boundary Marks between *Silistria* and *Mangalia*.‡ *Russian* Note relative to Diplomatic Act. Refusal of *Russian* Commissioner to sign Final Act. Memorandum explanatory of refusal. Discussion. *Russian* Commissioner persists in his refusal.‡

Constantinople, 16th December, 1878.

- No. 13. Signature by all the Commissioners except the *Russian* of the Final Act and Annexes.§ Resolution, that the Diplomatic Act and Annexes be transmitted in their actual state by the Commissioners to their respective Governments. Carried. Vote of thanks to Secretariat.

Constantinople, 17th December, 1878.

* This Commission met again on the 18th April, 1879, and sat until the 24th of September of that year. See Protocols Nos. 14 to 35 (No. 554).

† Page 2831.

‡ Page 2833.

§ The Russian Government signified its adhesion to the Final Act, as modified, in a Note dated 4th August, 1880 (No. 577).

No. 539.—*ACT of the European Commission (Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia,* and Turkey), defining the Boundary between Roumania and Bulgaria (the Dobrutsha, from Silistria to Mangalia), in accordance with Article XLVI of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Signed at Constantinople, 17th December, 1878.*

(Translation.)

It having been settled by Article XLVI of the Treaty concluded at Berlin on July $\frac{1}{13}$, 1878 (**No. 530**) that the Principality of Roumania should receive the territory situated to the south of the Dobrutsha as far as a line starting from a point east of Silistria and ending at the Black Sea, south of Mangalia; and that the marking of the new frontier should be determined on the spot by the European Commission established by the IInd Article of the said Treaty for settling the limits of Bulgaria:

Their Majesties the Emperor of Germany, the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, the President of the French Republic, their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the King of Italy, the Emperor of All the Russias, and the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, have appointed for their Commissioners, namely:—

His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, Colonel William Frederic Charles Gustavus John von Scherff, commanding the 3rd Rhenish Regiment of Infantry, No. 29;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, Colonel Charles Christian Henry, Baron de Ripp, of the General Staff;

The President of the French Republic, Major Julius Victor Lemoyne, of the General Staff;

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Major Robert Home, of the Royal Engineers, and a Colonel in the Army;

His Majesty the King of Italy, Lieutenant-Colonel Balthazar Alexander Orero, of the General Staff;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, Colonel Andrew Bogolubow, of the General Staff;*

His Majesty the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, his

* The Russian Commissioner did not sign this Act, but the adhesion of Russia to it, as modified, was signified in a Note dated $\frac{1}{2}$ th August, 1880 (**No. 577**).

Excellency Mehemed Tahir Pacha, a Major-General of the General Staff;

Who, after having exchanged their powers, have constituted themselves into a Commission for settling the limits of Bulgaria, at Constantinople, the $\frac{11\text{th}}{23\text{rd}}$ October, 1878.

The said Commissioners of the seven Powers signatories of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), after having gone to Silistria, and having travelled over the ground between Silistria and Mangalia in order to make themselves acquainted with the localities and to gather all the necessary information, after having listened to the explanations given by the Delegates appointed to that effect by the Government of His Royal Highness the Prince of Roumania, declare the demarcation of the frontier to be settled according to the following principles, and under the following conditions:—

Art. 1. In order to act in conformity with the intentions of the Powers signatories of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), and to enable the Roumanian Government to establish a communication between the two banks of the Danube on the spot acknowledged to be the most favourable down the stream and in the neighbourhood of Silistria, the starting point of the new frontier east of Silistria is fixed on the right bank of the river, opposite to Déirmen-Tabiassi, at a distance of 800 metres from the north-east bastion of the town (Itch-Tchenguel-Tabiassi).

2. The exact place of that point is marked upon a regular plan drawn upon a scale of $\frac{1}{30000}$ annexed to the present Act, together with a note in which its latitude and longitude are determined, as well as its situation with reference to the principal places in the town and its neighbourhood.*

3. The connecting point of the new frontier on the Black Sea, south of Mangalia, is marked by the largest of the three tumuli situated at a distance of about 1300 metres south of the mill of Ilanlik.

4. The latitude and longitude of this point have been ascertained as follows on the English chart of the Black Sea:—

Latitude $43^{\circ} 44' 15''$ N.

Longitude $28^{\circ} 32' 20''$ east of the meridian of Greenwich.

5. Between the two connecting points defined in the previous Articles the demarcation of the frontier line is, as a rule,

* See reference to Plan, page 2831; but see also Exchange of Notes, August—September, 1880 (**No. 577**).

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effected according to the natural irregularities of the ground easy to recognize, and deviating as little as possible from the straight line which joins the two extreme points.

6.* The line of demarcation is defined upon a topographical map drawn on a scale of $\frac{1}{300000}$, after a preliminary survey made on the spot, and it is minutely described in a note book enumerating the guiding marks selected on the ground.

A sketch, on the same scale, has also been prepared, in which the frontier line with its guiding marks, the course of the principal valleys (thalwegs), and the frontier localities have alone been indicated.

7.* The frontier line leaving the Danube directs its course in a straight line towards the south-south-west, crosses the Déirmen-Tabiassi redoubt, which is to be razed to the ground, leaves on the west the cemeteries of the town, and reaches the small bridge situated at the opening of the valley (thalweg) which divides the spurs upon which are built the works of Médjidié and Ordu-Tabiassi.

From that bridge it follows, in a southerly direction, the thalweg above indicated as far as the confluent of a secondary thalweg designated by a field cultivated as a market-garden; it then inflects towards the south-south-east, and continues to ascend from the bottom of the valley as far as a rayine which descends perpendicularly from the spur of Ordu-Tabiassi.

From that point (No. 4) the frontier rises in a straight line towards the east in order to reach the beginning of the thalweg which exists between the spurs of Ordu-Tabiassi and of Arab-Tabiassi.

Running then in the same direction over the tableland, it is formed by the straight lines which join the above-named defile to a great tumulus standing by itself (A), and the latter to a tree close to the place where the Almaly road branches off towards Karaorman and towards Esenkeui.

Between this tree and a group of two tumuli rising to the east of the road to Varna and of the mills of Karaorman, the general direction is towards the south-south-east; the line crosses the rivulet of Kulhora at 1050 metres east of the small bridge over which the road to Varna crosses the rivulet.

From the above-mentioned tumuli the frontier follows a

* See Exchange of Notes modifying Articles 6 and 7, August—September, 1880 (No. 577).

south-easterly direction between the road from Karaorman to Esenkeui and the highway, crosses a ravine which descends from south to north towards the south-westerly angle of the lake (Jesero) of Girlitza, and reaches a tumulus (No. 9) situated north of the road, near the great bend which the latter makes, and south of Esenkeui.

Between this tumulus and a triangulation signal (No. 10) raised to the east of Esenkeui, the frontier rises again towards the north and goes by the opening of a valley which, running to the east of Esenkeui, terminates in the Jesero-Girlitza at Girlitza itself.

To the north of the portion of the frontier thus described, and on the Roumanian side are the villages of Almaly, Esenkeui, and Girlitza; to the south and on the Bulgarian side the villages of Bartchma, Karaorman, Tchatalarma, Yénikeui, Alifakilar, Kutchuk, and Buyuk-Kainardji.

Between the triangulation previously mentioned and a tumulus (No. 11) situated at the west of Kranova, the direction is with very little difference from west to east; the line crosses a rivulet, which runs into the previous one at Girlitza, after having described a kind of semicircle, the convexity of which faces the east, then another valley which descends towards the villages of Karvan and which reaches the Jesero-Girlitza at Girlitza; within that space the frontier leaves to the north and to Roumania the villages of Kuyudjuk, Kutchuk, and Buyuk Karvan; and to the south and to Bulgaria the village of Kutuclu.

At the landmark (or guiding mark) No. 11, the line of demarcation turns abruptly to the north-north-east in order to reach in a straight line a steep rock which rises facing a less important thalweg in the valley which places the village of Kranova into communication with the lake of Holtena; it runs afterwards to the east-south-east towards a summit near to the place where the roads of Kranova-Kalaïdji and Velikeui-Redtcheb-Kujussu cross each other; then to the south-east towards a summit situated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometre south-west of Téké-Déressi, intersecting at 1 kilometre to the west of Redtcheb-Kujussu the road from Kranova to the latter village; thus it leaves to the south and to Bulgaria the village of Kranova, to the east and to Roumania the localities of Kalaïdji, Redtcheb-Kujussu, and Téké-Déressi.

From the above-named summit (No. 14) the line reaches to

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the east-south-east in the Valley of Terzkundu the mouth of the ravine which descends from the Téké-Déressi, and follows the thalweg until $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres west of Terzkundu; it leaves then the valley to rise more to the north and to intersect the road from Terzkundu to Jukari-Mahalé (Dobrimir-izir) half-way between those two villages; following the same direction towards the east it meets a place where several roads cross each other at about half-way between Ketchi-Déressi and Hissarlik. On the south of the line, the villages of Terzkundu and Ketchi-Déressi remain to Bulgaria; on the north, the villages of Ashaga and Jukari Mahalé (Dobrimir) remain to Roumania.

From the above-mentioned cross roads (No. 18), the frontier stretching to the east-north-east runs in a straight line between Hissarlik and Yemshinli which are left to Roumania on one side, and Deli-Yussuf-Kujussu on the other, until it reaches a triangulation signal placed at 5 kilometres north of the latter village.

Between the triangulation signals (Nos. 19 and 25), one of which is established between Yemshinli and Sévindik, and the other to the south-east of Dokusagatch, the general direction runs south-south-east, nearly on a parallel with that of the road from Yemshinli to Dokusagatch, which it leaves alternately on its right and on its left, with some slight breaks between the intermediate landmarks; within that space the line runs across a tableland, marked with some very slight irregularities of ground and cut only by two large slopes, which it crosses, the first to the south of and near the ruined village of Armoutly, and the second at 2000 metres to the south of Dokusagatch; it intersects the road of Medjidié to Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik by Musabey at 2000 metres to the south-east of Dokusagatch.

To the north of this part of the frontier and of the coast of Roumania are the villages of Sevindik, Skender, Haïrankeui, and Dokusagatch; to the south and of the coast of Bulgaria, the villages of Deli-Yussuf-Kujussu, Hassantchi (in ruins), Sariditcha, Durasi, Yénidteche-Dzedid, and Poiras (in ruins).

From the triangulation signal, No. 25, the line of demarcation crosses between Dérékeui and Haisarlik, a new tract of ground in a direction from north to south, and reaching a high tableland, the waters of which have cut deep slopes to the north towards the ravine and the Bay of Mangalia, and to the south towards the basin of Arandchi and the Lake of Kartali, it continues from

one tumulus to another very nearly in a straight line, and following a general direction from west to east as far as the terminus which has been marked on the Black Sea to the southward of Ilanlik. Within that space it leaves to the north and to Roumania the villages of Dérékeui, Karaomar, Kanli-Tchukur, Daoulikeui, Valali, Hoshkadim, Kadikeui, Hadjilar, and Ilanlik; to the south and to Bulgaria the villages of Haisarlik, Tchifut-Kujassu, Muraatché, Hussein-Tchekeui, and Karadjilar.

8. It will be the business of the two bordering States to cause, should they think fit, a regular and trigonometrical survey of the frontier territory to be made, and to take by common agreement such steps as they will find necessary to place the landmarks in conformity with the drawing fixed upon by the Commission.

9. Four out of the five documents which are alluded to in the second and sixth Articles, namely, the regular survey and the note concerning the connecting point of the frontier to the east of Silistria, the sketch, on a scale of $\frac{1}{300000}$, and the notebook in which the guiding marks of the frontier line are described, have been reproduced in seven copies, acknowledged as identical, one for each Power represented on the Boundary Commission. The signature of the Commissioners have been affixed to them, and they are annexed to the present Act, having the same force and validity.

Two copies of the original plan, on the scale of $\frac{1}{300000}$, and of the descriptive notebook shall be prepared under the care of the Secretary in order to be transmitted to the Ottoman and Roumanian Governments, after they shall have been approved of by the Powers.*

10. The present Act, containing ten articles, and drawn up in seven copies, has been signed by all the Commissioners in virtue of their powers.

It shall be immediately submitted to the approval of the Governments of Germany, of Austria-Hungary, of France, of Great Britain, of Italy, of Russia, and of Turkey, by their respective Commissioners. With the reservation of such approval, it is declared that it constitutes, together with the annexes alluded to in the ninth Article, the only authentic document respecting the new frontier.*

* This Act was approved (with modifications), by Notes which were exchanged between the Treaty Powers, August—September, 1880 (No. 577).

Done at Constantinople, the seventeenth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

(L.S.) R. HOME, *Colonel*.

(L.S.) SCHERFF.

(L.S.) RIPP.

(L.S.) J. V. LEMOYNE.

(L.S.) B. ORERO.

(L.S.) M. TAHIR.

ANNEXE No. 1.—*Plan. Frontière Roumano-Bulgare. Point de départ à Silistrie.*

Point d'attache à l'Est de Silistrie :

Latitude 44° 7' 20'' Nord.

Longitude 27° 16' 30'' Est de Greenwich.

Point d'attache sur la Mer Noire au Sud de Mangalia :

Latitude 43° 44' 15'' Nord.

Longitude 28° 32' 20'' Est de Greenwich.

ANNEXE No. 2.—*Notice fixant le point d'attache de la Frontière Roumano-Bulgare à l'Est Silistrie.*

Latitude 44° 7' 20'' Nord.

Longitude 27° 16' 30'' Est de Greenwich.

TABEAU des Angles mesurés les 6 et 7 Novembre, 1878, par MM. Ardagh et Chermiside, Officiers de l'État-Major Général Anglais.

Points Visés.	De la Station sur Itch Tchenguel Bastion.			Du Point de Départ sur le Danube.		
	°	'	''	°	'	''
Nord magnétique	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheminée à l'ouest de Kalarasch ..	35	11	0	30	29	20
Fenêtre ouest de l'église de Kalarasch ..	37	15	0	32	43	30
Tumulus nord au delà de l'île de Hoppa ..	81	52	0	—	—	—
Maison (poste de garde) sur une colline ..	—	—	—	103	35	0
Côté nord de la cabane de la tuilerie ..	104	0	0	167	0	0
Poteau voisin de cette cabane ..	113	57	0	235	0	0
Mât de pavillon de Yilanli Tabia ..	154	0	0	181	38	0

Tableau des Angles—continué.

Points Visés.	De la Station sur Itch Tchengué Bastion.			Du Point de Départ sur le Danube.		
	°	'	"	°	'	"
Tumulus au delà de la vallée au sud ..	188	0	0	—		
Minaret gris	193	45	0	233	18	20
Minaret blanc	202	14	0	245	35	0
Croix de la grande église	215	27	0	267	8	0
Autre minaret gris	217	23	0	—		
Fenêtre de la petite église	229	4	0	270	40	40
Coupole de la grande mosquée	230	21	0	268	21	30
Autre minaret blanc	236	3	0	—		
Tumulus en amont du Danube	280	15	0	—		
Saillant de l'escarpe du bastion de Itch Tchengué.	6	0	0	279	48	30

Observations.

1. La distance du point d'observation sur le bastion Itch Tchengué au saillant de l'escarpe sur le même bastion est de 20 mètres.

2. La distance du point de départ sur le Danube à l'angle le plus voisin de la cabane de la tuilerie est de 50·7 mètres.

3. La distance entre le saillant de l'escarpe du bastion Itch Tchengué et le point de départ est de 800 mètres.

4. Le point de départ était, le 7 Novembre, 1878, à 2 mètres du bord de l'eau et à 10 centimètres au-dessus du niveau du fleuve.

5. La nouvelle frontière se dirige dans une direction sud-ouest 220° environ pour arriver au ponceau situé à l'embouchure de la vallée entre Médjidié Tabiassi et Ordu Tabiassi, à peu près 1,650 mètres du point de départ.

6. La déclinaison de la boussole du théodolite avec lequel les angles ont été pris à Silistrie est de 4° 37'.

7. La déclinaison à Mangalia est à peu près de 5° 30' selon la carte marine Anglaise.

8. La direction moyenne de la ligne tracée du point de départ à Silistrie jusqu'au point d'arrivée à Ilanlik est de 112° 53' 32''.

(Suivent les mêmes signatures.)

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ANNEXE No. 3.—*Croquis Générale de la Frontière Roumano-Bulgarie, dressé par le Capitaine Ardagh, de l'État-Major Anglais, d'après les levés expédiés de MM. Clarke, Ardagh et Chermiside, de l'Armée Anglais; MM. Schoubart et Wolkoff, de l'Armée Russe; Mehemet Ali Bey et Cherafeddine Effendi, de l'Armée Turque; et M. Kutcher, de l'Armée Roumanie, sous direction de M. le Commandant Lemoyne, Membre Français de la Commission. Échelle $\frac{1}{30,000}$.*

Signatures des Commissaires :

SCHERFF.

RIPP.

J. V. LEMOYNE.

R. HOME.

B. ORERO.

TAHIR.

ANNEXE No. 4.—*Cahier Descriptif des Points de Repère de la Ligne Roumano-Bulgare entre Silistrie et Mangalia.*

Points de Repère de la Ligne-Frontière.				Points et Localités voisins de la Ligne.		
No.	Dénomination et Indication.	Distance en hectomètres au point précédent.	Angles approximatifs formés par la direction précédente		Dénomination et Indication.	Angles formés avec le nord magnétique par la ligne qui les relie aux points de repère.
			Avec le nord magnétique.	Avec la nouvelle direction.		
1	Point terminus sur le Danube, à l'est de Silistrie, à 800 mètres de Itch Tchenguél Tabiassi	..	° ..	° ..	La ligne-frontière traverse Deïrmen Tabiassi	..
2	Pont au débouché du thalweg qui sépare les contreforts sur lesquels s'élèvent Méjidié Tabiassi et Ordu Tabiassi	17	220	°
3	Champ cultivé au confluent des deux ravins qui forment le thalweg précédent	25	° ..	°
4	Groupe de huit arbres au confluent d'un petit ravin descendant du contrefort d'Ordu Tabiassi	20				La position exacte de ce point est fixée par un levé spécial. C'est le 2 ^{me} ponceau en remontant le lit du ruisseau. La frontière suit le tracé courbe du thalweg entre les points Nos. 2 et 4.

[Boundary. Roumania and Bulgaria. Silistria to Mangalia.]

Points de Repère de la Ligne-Frontière.				Points et Localités voisins de la Ligne.			
No.	Dénomination et Indication.	Distance en hectomètres au point précédent.	Angles approximatifs formés par la direction précédente		Dénomination et Indication.	Angles formés avec le nord magnétique par la ligne qui les relie aux points de repère.	Observations et Remarques.
			Avec le nord magnétique.	Avec la nouvelle direction.			
5	Arbre à la tête du ravin qui court entre Ordu Tabiassi et Arab Tabiassi, le long de l'ancienne route de Silistrie à Varna et à la bifurcation des routes	17	122	° ..	Pierre surmontant un tumulus, à 1,400 m.	° 34	
6	Tumulus isolé A au sud-ouest d'Almaly	15	120	178			
7	Arbre à l'est de l'embranchement des chemins d'Almaly à Karaorman et d'Almaly à Esenkeui	37.5	115	175	Pont sur la grande route au fond de la vallée de la Kulhora, à 1,050 m.	175	
8	Tumulus B à l'est du moulin de Karaorman et au nord de la grande route	31	157	222	Tumulus au delà de la grande route, à 1,350 m. Moulin de Karaorman, à 2,000 m. Petit tumulus au nord, à 250 m.	272 269 84	Le repère No. 8 appartient à un groupe de deux tumulus ; il est le plus au sud des deux.

La repère No. 8 appartient à un groupe de deux tumulus; il est le plus au sud des deux.

Points de Repère de la Ligne-Frontière.				Points et Localités voisins de la Ligne.			
No.	Dénomination et Indication.	Distance en hectomètres au point précédent.	Angles approximatifs formés par la direction précédente		Dénomination et Indication.	Angles formés avec le nord magnétique par la ligne qui les relie aux points de repère.	Observations et Remarques.
			Avec le nord magnétique.	Avec la nouvelle direction.			
9	Tumulus C voisin de la route de Varna, au sud du moulin d'Esenkeui	Hectomètres. 40	152°	175°	Tumulus au sud-ouest d'Esenkeui, à 3,600 m. Moulin à vent d'Esenkeui, à 2,400 m. Grande route de Varna, à 180 m.	5° 40°	
10	Tumulus D avec signal de triangulation à l'est d'Esenkeui et au sud-est de Giritza	57.5	78	106	Moulin à vent d'Esenkeui, à 4,150 m. Borne à mi-chemin de la route d'Esenkeui à Giritza, au confluent des vallées à 3,300 m.	279° 350°	
11	Tumulus E à l'ouest de Kranova et sur la route de Kranova à Buyuk Karvan	104	104	206	Petit tumulus au nord de Kranova, à 1,000 m. Cimetière à la jonction des routes, à 600 m.	737° 348°	

[Boundary. Roumania and Bulgaria. Silistria to Mangalia.]

Points de Repère de la Ligne-Frontière.				Points et Localités voisins de la Ligne.			
No.	Dénomination et Indication.	Distance en hectomètres au point précédent.	Angles approximatifs formés par la direction précédente		Dénomination et Indication.	Angles formés avec le nord magnétique par la ligne qui les relie aux points de repère.	Observations et Remarques.
			Avec le nord magnétique.	Avec la nouvelle direction.			
12	Rocher sur la ligne droite menée du tumulus E, au plus central des rochers isolés situés à 6 kilom. au nord de Kranova, dans la vallée qui descend sud-nord de ce village et près d'un coude où elle tourne à l'ouest	Hectomètres. 48	° 37	° 113	° ..	Immédiatement au-delà du repère No. 12, la ligne-frontière traverse la vallée de Kranova et s'élève sur une colline.
13	Sommet voisin de la croisée des routes Kranova-Kalaidji, et Velikeui-Redtcheb Kujussu	36	137	280	Moulin le plus proche de Kalaidji, à 2,050 m.	53	
14	Sommet à 1½ kilom. au sud-ouest de Téké-Déressi	66	175	118	Les données relatives aux repères Nos. 14-18 sont dues à une reconnaissance très-rapide du terrain faite par les officiers Roumains.

Points de Repère de la Ligne-Frontière.			Points et Localités voisins de la Ligne.		
No.	Dénomination et Indication.	Distance en hectomètres au point précédent.	Angles approximatifs formés par la direction précédente		Observations et Remarques.
			Avec le nord mag- nétique.	Avec la nouvelle direction.	
15	Confluent du ravin de Tété- Déressi et de la grande vallée passant par Terz- kundu et Ketchi-Déressi	18	112	117	Angles formés avec le nord magnétique par la ligne qui les relie aux points de repère.
16	Point dans la vallée à 2½ kilom. environ à l'ouest de Terzkundu	40	109	117	
17	Point sur la route de Jukari- Mahalé à Terzkundu, à mi- chemin contre les deux vil- lages	30	85	156	°
18	Croisée des chemins Jukari- Mahalé — Saridtecha et Ketchi Déressi — Hissarlik	52	85	180	
19	Tumulus L avec signal de triangulation à mi-distance entre Yemshinli et Sevindik	61	61	156	
20	Signal de triangulation au sud de Sevindik	36	145	210	Moulin de Sevindik, à 1,750 m. 15

Points de Repère de la Ligne-Frontière.				Points et Localités voisins de la Ligne.			
No.	Dénomination et Indication.	Distance en hectomètres au point précédent.	Angles approximatifs formés par la direction précédente.		Dénomination et Indication.	Angles formés avec le nord magnétique par la ligne qui les relie aux points de repère.	Observations et Remarques.
			Avec le nord magnétique.	Avec la nouvelle direction.			
21	Tumulus M à 1 kilom. au sud-est de Hassantchi	48	° 175	° 169	Moulin d'Armoutly, à 3,100 m. Tumulus au N.-O. de Dokusagatch, à 3,000 m. Moulin à vent de Dokusagatch, à 1,950 m. Moulin à vent de Dokusagatch, à 2,700 m. Moulin à vent de Haisarik, à 1,790 m.	°	Le repère No. 26 est le plus au sud des deux tumulus situés entre Dérékeui et Tchifut-Kujusu.
22	Tumulus N à l'est de la route Hassantchi-Armoutly, à 6 kilom. de Hassantchi et à 3 kilom. d'Armoutly	48	164	184			
23	Arbre au sud du village d'Armoutly	63.5	170	116			
24	Tumulus O à l'ouest de Dokusagatch	20	106	193			
25	Tumulus P avec signal de triangulation au sud-est de Dokusagatch	41	119	186			
26	Tumulus Q au sud-est de Dérékeui et au sud du chemin Dérékeui-Tchifut Kujusu	50	125	172		226	

Points de Repère de la Ligne-Frontière.				Points et Localités voisins de la Ligne.			
No.	Dénomination et Indication.	Distance en hectomètres au point précédent.	Angles approximatifs formés par la direction précédente		Dénomination et Indication.	Angles formés avec le nord magnétique par la ligne qui les relie aux points de repère.	Observations et Remarques.
			Avec le nord magnétique.	Avec la nouvelle direction.			
27	Tumulus R au sud de Kanli-Tchukur et au nord-ouest de Muraatché	Hectomètres. 100	117	171	Débouché sud du village de Kanli-Tchukur, à 3,700 m. La maison la plus proche de Muraatché, à 2,900 m. A 1,200 m. des tumulus S et T	45 141	
28	Un point à mi-distance entre le tumulus S à l'est de Hussein-Tchekeui et le tumulus T (le plus au sud de deux tumulus) à l'ouest de Hoshkadim	94	108	180		8 et 188	La frontière coupe la route Hussein Tchekeui - Daoulitcheui à 700 m. au nord du cimetière d'Hussein Tchekeui
29	Tumulus U près d'un village ruiné au sud du village ruiné d'Almaly	78	108	161	Tumulus à 2,700 m. Ligne télégraphique à 800 m. à l'ouest	49	La frontière passe à 900 m. au sud du moulin sud de Kadikeui et traverse une ligne télégraphique entre le village ruiné et le tumulus V.

Points de Repère de la Ligne-Frontière.				Points et Localités voisins de la Ligne.			
No.	Dénomination et Indication.	Distance en hectomètres au point précédent.	Angles approximatifs formés par la direction précédente		Dénomination et Indication.	Angles formés avec le nord magnétique par la ligne que les relie aux points de repère.	Observations et Remarques.
			Avec le nord mag- nétique.	Avec la nouvelle direction.			
30	Tumulus V au nord de Karadjilar (le plus au nord de deux tumulus)	Hectomètres. 47	° 89	° 184	Moulin à l'est de Karad- jilar, à 2,000 m. Tumulus voisin, à 230 m. ... Tumulus avec signal de triangulation à l'ouest de Karadjilar, à 2,100 m. Autre tumulus, à 3,600 m.	° 10 152 213 332	La frontière à 3,200 m. du tumulus V passe à 10 m. au nord d'un autre tumu- lus. A 3,600 m. elle passe à 2,000 m. au sud d'un autre tu- mulus ; à 4,400 et à 4,600 m. environ, elle passe à une distance égale de deux nouveaux tu- mulus. Le tumulus X est à 180 m. d'un autre petit tumulus situé au sud. Le plage est à 200 m. du tu- mulus X.
31	Tumulus X à 1,330 mètres du moulin d'Ilanlik, point terminus sur la Mer Noire	54	93	

(Suivent les mêmes signatures.)

(Suivent les mêmes signatures.)

No. 540.—*PROCÈS-VERBAL of the Russo-Roumanian Commission, for fixing the limits of the Bessarabian Territory retroceded to Russia by Article XLV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Signed at Bucharest, the $\frac{5}{17}$ th December, 1878.*

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, Colonel Pencovici and Lieutenant-Colonel N. Demetresco-Măican, Delegates of the Princely Government of Roumania, and the Colonel Touguenhold, Delegate of the Imperial Russian Government, in virtue of the commission they have received from their respective Governments to proceed to the laying down of the frontier-line between the two States on the Lower Danube, in virtue of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), constituted themselves a Commission, on the $\frac{23\text{rd November}}{8\text{rd December}}$.

The Commission after having visited the places, and examined Article XLV of the Treaty of Berlin, fixes the frontier-line between the two States, as it is indicated on the chart annexed to the present Procès-Verbal,* namely, starting from the mouth of the arm Vieux-Stamboul, the frontier shall follow on ascending the thalweg of the arm which is between the island Kouban and Popin, till in front of the village Periprava, leaving to the right the island of Stamboul, and to the left the island of Lėti. From this point, still ascending, the frontier shall follow the thalweg of the Moljen arm (direct), leaving to the right the island Yermakoff and Otnojino, and to the left the islands Ciornoï (Negra), Sviroff, and Mezlinof, and thence by the thalweg of the only Kilia arm, as far as opposite to the town of Kilia.

From this point the frontier, in ascending, will pass by the thalweg of the arms Ivaneschti and Serednie, leaving to the right the islands Maciuka and Catinca, Solonetz, and Kislitza, and to the left the islands Ivansechti (Tutarsky), the two deltas and the island Capu-de-Drak, and thence by the thalweg of the only arm of the Kilia, as far as Tchatal d'Ismail, where the Kilia arm commences. With regard to the frontier between the Tchatal d'Ismail and the mouth of the Pruth, the

* See Map of Danube, facing page 3106, with Treaty of 10th March, 1883 (**No. 599**).

[Boundary. Bessarabia.]

Commission, not being able to agree, records the following as being the separate opinion of each party.

The Roumanian Delegates maintain that the frontier between Roumania and Russia, between the Tchatal d'Ismail and the mouth of the Pruth, ought to follow the left bank of the river and not the thalweg. The Roumanian Delegates quote in support of their opinion the very letter of Article XLV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), which does not specify for this part of the Danube any other frontier than that which existed in virtue of the Treaty of Paris (No. 264) between Roumania and Turkey, that is to say, the bank itself of the river. The Roumanian Delegates, moreover, invoke, in support of their opinion, the precedents established, on this same part of the Danube, by the Treaty of Bucharest (1812)* and by the Treaty of Paris (No. 264), which have not fixed the frontier between the States on the thalweg, but on the left bank of the river.

The Russian Delegate, without entering into the examination of the Treaties, maintains that the line of demarcation of the frontier, according to general international law, ought to pass by the middle of the river (*par le milieu du fleuve*) separating the two riverain States, and, consequently, ought to follow the thalweg of the Danube.

The present Procès-Verbal has been, in consequence, drawn up in duplicate to be submitted to the respective Governments.

Done at Bucharest, the 17th December, 1878.

The Delegates of the Princely Government of Roumania,

Colonel PENCOVICI.

Lieut.-Colonel N. DEMETRESCO-MAICAN.

The Delegate of the Imperial Government of Russia.

Colonel TOUGUENHOLD.

* Appendix, Vol. III, page 2030.

No. 541.—*AGREEMENT between Great Britain and Turkey, for Commuting the Ottoman Crown Property, Revenues, &c., of Cyprus for a fixed Annual Payment of £5,000. Constantinople, 3rd February, 1879.**

It having been agreed between Her Britannic Majesty's Government and that of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan that all the rights reserved to the Ottoman Crown and Government, under Article IV of the Annex to the Convention signed at Constantinople on the 4th of June, 1878 (**No. 525**), shall be commuted by a fixed annual money payment, the Undersigned, the Right Honourable Austen Henry Layard, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Sublime Porte, and his Excellency Alexandre Carathéodory Pasha, His Imperial Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, being duly authorized so to do, hereby declare that:

All property, revenues, and rights reserved to the Ottoman Crown and Government in the said Article IV of the Annex to the Convention of the 4th June (**No. 525**), including all revenue derived from tapous, mahloul, and intikal are commuted hereby for a fixed annual payment of 5,000*l.* to be made by Her Britannic Majesty's Government to that of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, every year during the British occupation of Cyprus, to be calculated from the beginning of next financial year.

Done at Constantinople, the ^{22nd January}
3rd February, 1879.

A. H. LAYARD.

AL. CARATHÉODORY.

* See Arrangement between the Porte and Bondholders of 20th December, 1881 (**No. 591**).

[Peace.]

No. 542.—*TREATY OF PEACE between Russia and Turkey. Signed at Constantinople, $\frac{27}{8}$ th ^{January} February, 1879.**

[Ratifications exchanged at St. Petersburg, $\frac{9}{21}$ st February, 1879.]

ART.

TABLE.

1. Peace and Friendship.
2. Substitution of Treaty of *Berlin* for Articles of Treaty of *San Stefano* altered by Berlin Congress.
3. Stipulations of Treaty of *San Stefano* not altered by Treaty of *Berlin*, permanently settled by present Treaty.
4. War Indemnity. Mode of payment.
5. Compensation for losses sustained by *Russian* Subjects during the War.
6. Expense of maintenance of Prisoners of War.
7. Conditions under which inhabitants of localities ceded to *Russia* will be allowed to retire therefrom.
8. *Russian* or *Ottoman* subjects compromised by intercourse with either Army not to be molested. Persons wishing to retire after withdrawal of *Russians* not to be opposed by *Ottoman* authorities.
9. Amnesty to *Ottoman* subjects.
10. Treaties, &c., relating to Commerce, Jurisdiction, and the position of *Russians* in Turkey to be the same as before the War.
11. Litigation of *Russian* Subjects to be terminated.
12. Ratification.

(Translation).

In the Name of Almighty God.

HIS Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, wishing to perpetuate the restoration of Peace between the two Empires, and to settle permanently by a Treaty such Articles of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano (**No. 518**) as are to form the subjects of a direct understanding between the two States, have appointed for their Plenipotentiaries :

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, on the one part, Prince Alexis Lobanow-Rostovsky, his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, Secretary of State, &c.;

* A Russian Manifesto was issued on the $\frac{3}{15}$ th February, 1879, announcing the conclusion of Peace with Turkey. See "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 1216.

[Peace.]

And His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, on the other part, Al. Carathéodory Pacha, his Minister for Foreign Affairs, &c., and Ali Pacha, his Minister Presiding over the Council of State, &c.;

Who, after having communicated to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

Peace and Friendship.

ART. I. Peace and friendship shall henceforth exist between the two Empires.

Substitution of Treaty of Berlin for Articles of Treaty of San Stefano altered by Berlin Congress.

ART. II.* The two Powers agree in declaring that the stipulations of the Treaty concluded at Berlin by the seven Powers (No. 530) have been substituted for such Articles of the Preliminaries of Peace of San Stefano (No. 518) as have been abrogated or modified by the Congress (No. 528).

Stipulations of Treaty of San Stefano not altered by Treaty of Berlin, permanently settled by present Treaty.

ART. III.* The stipulations of the Treaty of San Stefano (No. 518) which have not been abrogated or modified by the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), are permanently settled by the following Articles of the present Treaty.

War Indemnity.

ART. IV. After deducting the value of the territories ceded by Turkey to Russia in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) the War Indemnity remains assessed at 802,500,000 francs.

Mode of Payment of War Indemnity.

The mode of payment of that sum, and also the securities by which it is to be guaranteed (save the declarations contained in the 11th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin with regard to the question of territories, and to the rights of creditors) (No. 528), will be settled by an understanding between the

* See Protocol, page 2849.

† See Convention between Russia and Turkey of ^{2nd}/_{14th} May, 1882 (No. 592).

[Peace.]

Governments of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans.*

Compensation for Losses sustained by Russian Subjects during the War.

ART. V.† The claims of Russian subjects and establishments ("institutions") in Turkey to compensation for losses sustained during the war shall be settled as soon as they shall have been inquired into by the Russian Embassy at Constantinople and transmitted to the Sublime Porte.

The total amount of those claims shall not, under any circumstances, exceed the sum of 26,750,000 francs.

The term of one year after the ratifications shall have been exchanged is assigned as the date from which claims can be presented to the Sublime Porte, and that of two years as the date after which claims shall no longer be admitted.

Expense of Maintenance of Prisoners of War.

ART. VI. Special Commissioners shall be appointed by the Imperial Government of Russia and the Sublime Porte in order to draw up an account of the expenditure caused by the maintenance of Ottoman prisoners of war. This account shall be made up to the date of the signing of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). From it shall be deducted the expenses incurred by the Ottoman Government for the maintenance of Russian prisoners, and the balance, once settled, shall be paid by the Sublime Porte in twenty-one equal instalments within the space of seven years.

Conditions under which Inhabitants of Localities ceded to Russia will be allowed to retire therefrom.

ART. VII. The inhabitants of the localities ceded to Russia who should wish to establish their residence beyond those territories, will be free to retire upon selling their real property. A delay of three years from the date of the ratification of the present Treaty will be granted to them for that purpose.

After that delay those inhabitants who should not have left the country and sold their immovable estates shall remain Russian subjects.

* See Convention between Russia and Turkey, ^{2nd}/_{14th} May, 1882 (No. 592).

† See Protocol, page 2849.

[Peace.]

Russian or Ottoman Subjects compromised by Intercourse with either Army not to be molested. Persons wishing to retire after Withdrawal of Russians not to be opposed by Ottoman Authorities.

ART. VIII. Both parties pledge themselves not to molest or to allow to be molested in any manner those Russian or Ottoman subjects who might have become compromised in consequence of their intercourse with the armies of either Empire during the war. In case any persons should wish to retire with their families after the withdrawal of the Russian troops, the Ottoman authorities will not oppose their departure.

Amnesty to Ottoman Subjects.

ART. IX.* A full and general amnesty is secured to all Ottoman subjects who shall have become compromised during the late events in the provinces of European Turkey, and all persons either detained on that account, or sent into exile or removed from their country, shall immediately be restored to the enjoyment of their liberty.

Treaties, &c., relating to Commerce, Jurisdiction, and the position of Russians in Turkey, to be the same as before the War.

ART. X. All Treaties, Conventions, and Engagements concluded between the two High Contracting Parties relating to commerce, jurisdiction, and the position of Russian subjects in Turkey, which had been suppressed in consequence of the state of war, shall be put in force again, and the two Governments will again be placed, with regard to all their commercial and other engagements and undertakings in the same position, in relation to one another, as they stood before the declaration of War, with the exception of such Articles as may have been altered by the present Treaty, or in virtue of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

Litigation of Russian Subjects to be terminated.

ART. XI. The Sublime Porte will take effective steps in order to terminate amicably all litigation of Russian subjects which have been pending for several years, to compensate the latter, should there be cause for it, and to cause the judgments given to be executed without delay.

* See Protocol, page 2451.

[Peace.]

Ratifications.

ART. XII. The present Treaty shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at St. Petersburg within two weeks, or sooner, if possible.

In testimony whereof the Plenipotentiaries of Russia and Turkey have affixed to it their signatures and their seals.

Done at Constantinople, ^{27th January,}
8th February, 1879.

(L.S.) LOBANOW.

(L.S.) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

(L.S.) ALI.

PROTOCOL *between Russia and Turkey respecting the Treaty of Peace of* ^{27th January}
^{8th February}, 1879. *Signed at Constantinople,*
^{27th January}
^{8th February}, 1879.

(Translation.)

THEIR Excellencies the Plenipotentiaries of Turkey and Russia, having met at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on the ^{27th January}
^{8th February}, 1879, in order to proceed to the signature of the Treaty negotiated by them, examine, Article by Article, the text of that Act, as well as the Draft Treaty previously communicated to the Sublime Porte by the Russian Plenipotentiary.

Treaties of San Stefano and Berlin.

With regard to Article II, the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries record the fact that it remains understood that that Article has only a declaratory character in the sense that the statements contained therein cannot bear any interpretation which may be in disagreement with the nature of the engagements entered into in the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). His Excellency Prince Lobanow, in accepting this declaration of the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries, records the fact that the Imperial Russian Government on its part has only in view the strict and faithful execution of the Treaty of Berlin in letter as well as in spirit.

Article V gives rise to the following explanation by the Russian Plenipotentiary:

Russian Claims for Losses during War.

HIS Excellency Prince Lobanow declares that the sum which is therein specified constitutes a maximum to which the total amount of claims will probably never reach; he adds that a Commission, *ad hoc*, will be established at the Russian Embassy for the careful examination of the claims which shall be laid before it, and that, according to the instructions of his Government, an Ottoman Delegate shall be allowed to take part in the examination of those claims. As to the term of one year fixed by this Article as the date from which the claims may be presented to the Sublime Porte, it is understood that an exception will be made in favour of the claim of the Russian Hospital, amounting to the sum of £11,200.

Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro.

With reference to the last part of paragraph (c) (Article IV) of the original draft, it is understood, without prejudice, that the Principalities of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro, being now independent, those stipulations of the Treaty of San Stefano (No. 518) can find no place in the new Treaty unless the interested parties come to a direct understanding respecting them.

Interruption of Navigation of the Danube.

Paragraph (d) of the said draft being suppressed, the Russian Plenipotentiary refers to the declaration made on that subject by Count Schouvaloff, in the sitting of the 2nd of July, of the Congress of Berlin (Protocol 11) (No. 528), according to which no obligation could fall upon Russia through the interruption of the navigation of the Danube caused by the breaking out of war.

Eastern Roumelia.

Paragraph (f) of the Russian Draft is also eliminated; but to prevent any misunderstanding, His Excellency Prince Lobanow declares that this elimination can in no way be invoked against the administrative system existing in Eastern Roumelia, and that the *status quo* will be provisionally maintained there until the introduction of the new organisation elaborated by the European Commission.

[Peace.]

On their side, the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries declare that they have demanded the suppression of that paragraph, precisely because they do not mean in any way to deal with Eastern Roumelia, the position of which is determined by the Treaty concluded between the Seven Powers at Berlin (No. 530), and because they are neither qualified, nor is it their mission, to discuss the matter at the present time.

Evacuation of Territories.

Paragraph (g) of the same draft is also suppressed, and it is agreed that the Russian Ambassador shall address a note to the Sublime Porte declaring that the Imperial Government engages to give orders, immediately after the ratification of the Treaty of this day, for the evacuation of the territories occupied by the Russian troops outside the limits of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. Moreover, the Russian Ambassador gives notice that he will call the attention of the Sublime Porte to the necessity of taking certain temporary measures for the maintenance of public order and tranquillity in the territories evacuated. The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries, on their part, affirm that their Government has always given its attention, in so far as it is concerned, to a change of administration in the territories evacuated by the Russian armies.

Amnesty.

With reference to Article IX, it is understood that the amnesty therein mentioned shall not hinder the local administration from taking such police measures, with regard to compromised persons, as may be rendered necessary by the exigencies of public order and tranquillity.

The signature of the Treaty is then proceeded with; His Excellency the Russian Ambassador hands in the note respecting the evacuation, and the Plenipotentiaries append their signatures to the present Protocol.

Constantinople, ^{27th January}_{8th February} 1879.

AL. CARATHÉODORY.
ALI.

LOBANOW.

No. 543.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners of Greece and Turkey* for the rectification of the Greek Frontier (Thessaly and Epirus) in accordance with Protocol No. 13 of the Congress of Berlin (No. 526); sanctioned by Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530)—Prevesa, 8th February—18th March, 1879.*

PROTOCOL.

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.

No. 1. *Greek Commissioners* invite the *Ottoman Commissioners* to notify the points of demarcation which would correspond with the indications of the 13th Protocol of the *Berlin Congress (No. 526)*. *Ottoman Commissioners* request a modification of the *Greek demands*. *Greek Commissioners* declare that they must keep to the boundaries fixed by Protocol 13 of *Berlin Congress*. *Ottoman Commissioners* ask for guarantees for the settlement of properties of persons in the annexed territory who may wish to expatriate themselves. *Greek Commissioners* reply that by *Greek law* property is inviolable, and that question raised does not come within their competency. *Ottoman Commissioners* pressed for an understanding on the subject.

Prevesa, 8th February, 1879.

No. 2. Declaration of *Greek Commissioners* that their mission consists only in coming to an understanding with regard to the rectification of the frontier, and that the question of properties is beyond their competency, but that the matter has been referred to their Government with the result that they are authorised to declare that the legislation of the kingdom is liberal enough to protect the properties of inhabitants, and that if further legislative measures are found necessary, after the line of frontiers is decided, an agreement might be come to.

Prevesa, 10th February, 1879.

No. 3. *Ottoman Commissioners* point out that the difference existing between the Delegates of the two Governments arises chiefly from the fact that *Turkey* considers the settlement of the frontier question as a proof of deference towards *Europe*, while

* The Greek Commissioners were—

General Scharlato Soutzo.
M. Georges Zinopoulo.
Major Panos Colocotronis.

The Turkish Commissioners were—

Ghazy Moukhta Pasha.
Constant Pasha.

[Turco-Greek Boundary.]

PROTOCOL.

Greece desires to give to the wish expressed by the Powers the force of a decision. *Ottoman* Commissioners reserve the question of properties until an agreement is come to respecting the sense of the 13th Protocol of the *Berlin* Congress (No. 526).

Prevesa, 11th February, 1879.

- No. 4. Declaration by *Greek* Commissioners that they cannot enter into a discussion on the interpretation of the Protocol of the *Berlin* Congress. *Ottoman* Commissioners ask whether their *Hellenic* colleagues would refuse to enter into negotiations respecting a new line which might be proposed to them. *Greek* Commissioners reply that the line fixed by the Protocol is the only possible basis of negotiations. *Ottoman* Commissioners admit the principle of the rectification but maintain a different opinion as regards the line of demarcation indicated by the Protocol; and that as an Agreement cannot be arrived at they must ask for fresh instructions from their Government.

Prevesa, 13th February, 1879.

- No. 5. As a result of fresh instructions, *Ottoman* Commissioners propose a new line of frontier, on the ground of the line proposed not being in accordance with the indications of Protocol 13 of the *Berlin* Congress (No. 526). *Greek* Commissioners refuse to accept proposal, and desire to put an end to the sittings. *Ottoman* Commissioners state that they are not authorised to be parties to a rupture of the negotiations, but in the event of their *Hellenic* colleagues persisting in their determination, they can only refer the matter to Constantinople.

Prevesa, 18th March, 1879.

[These Conferences were resumed at Constantinople, and the Commissioners sat from the 22nd August till the 17th November, 1879 (No. 559). Conferences were also held between the Delegates of Greece and Turkey at Sourpi on the 17th and 19th March, 1879, with the object of agreeing upon some joint action to be taken to suppress brigandage in Thessaly. See Parliamentary Paper, Greece No. 1 (1879) pp. 176-178.]

No. 544.—*AUSTRIAN LAW incorporating the District of Spizza within the Kingdom of Dalmatia. Vienna, 15th April, 1879.*

(Translation.)

WITH the consent of both Houses of the Imperial Parliament
— I ordain as follows :

ART. I. In execution of the third paragraph of Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th of July, 1878 (**No. 530**), the district of Spizza, as far the northern frontier of the territory as defined in the detailed description of the frontier lines (paragraph 5 of Article XXVIII of the said Treaty), is incorporated with the Kingdom of Dalmatia.

ART. II. The laws and institutions existing in Dalmatia are extended to the district defined in Article I. The Government is, however, authorised to adopt administrative measures for effecting the transfer.

ART. III. The Ministry is charged with the execution of this Law.

Vienna, April 15th, 1879.

FRANZ JOSEPH.

STREMAJR. TAAFFE. GLASER.

CHLUMECKY. PRETIS. HORST.

ZIEMIATKOWSKI. MANNSFELD.

[By an Order of the Austrian Minister of Finance, dated 18th April, 1879, the District of Spizza was assigned to the Jurisdiction of the District Court (Bezirksgericht) of Budra, and to the Circuit Court (Kreisgericht) of Cattaro; and by another Order of the same Minister, dated 4th May, 1879, further arrangements were made with regard to the administration of the Finances of the District of Spizza. See also Protocols 8th September, 1879, and 4th February, 1881, defining the Boundary between Spizza and Antivari (**No. 581**).

No. 545.—*CONVENTION between Austria-Hungary and Turkey, respecting the Occupation and Administration by Austria-Hungary of the Provinces of Bosnia and the Herzegovina. Constantinople, 21st April, 1879.*

ART.

TABLE.

1. Administration of *Bosnia and Herzegovina*.
2. Religious Liberty. Hoisting of *Ottoman* Flag on Minarets.
3. Administration of Revenues.
4. Current *Ottoman* Money.
5. Disposal of War Material, &c.
6. Treatment of Inhabitants and Travellers.
7. Mode in which Article XXV of the Treaty of *Berlin* (No. 530) is to be carried out. Sandjak of *Novi-Bazar*.
8. Presence of Troops in the Sandjak of *Novi-Bazar*.
9. Maintenance of Troops in the Garrisons and Positions of the Sandjak of *Novi-Bazar*. Non-employment by Porte of Irregular Troops.
10. Power of *Austria* to maintain Troops in Garrison.

ANNEX.—Occupation of Positions by *Austrian* Troops.

(Translation.)

THE Governments of Austria-Hungary and Turkey, having reserved to themselves the right of coming to an understanding with regard to the details of the occupation stipulated for by Article XXV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), and the fact of the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina in no way affecting the rights of Sovereignty of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan over these provinces, the two Governments have named for their Plenipotentiaries:

Austria-Hungary, on the one part, His Excellency M. le Comte F. Zichy, &c. ; and Turkey, on the other part, His Excellency Al. Carathéodory Pasha, &c., and His Excellency Munif Effendi, &c. ;

Who, after having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles :—

Administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

ART. I. The administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina shall be carried on by Austria-Hungary, conformably to Article

XXV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530); the Austro-Hungarian Government, however, does not object to retain all those existing functionaries who may possess the necessary aptitude for the good administration of their departments. In filling up vacancies, preference will be given by the Austro-Hungarian Government to natives of these provinces.

Religious Liberty.

ART. II. The freedom and outward exercise of all existing religions shall be assured to persons residing or sojourning in Bosnia and the Herzegovina. Especially, entire freedom is assured to Mussulmans in their relations with their spiritual chiefs.

The commanders of the troops of His Majesty the Emperor and King, and the administrative authorities, shall continue to take the greatest care that no injury be done to the honour, to the customs, to the freedom of religion, to the security of the persons, or to the property, of Mussulmans. All aggression against Mussulmans, their property or their religion, shall be severely punished. The name of His Majesty the Sultan shall continue to be used in the public prayers of the Mussulmans as in times past.

Hoisting of Ottoman Flag on Minarets.

Wherever it shall have been the custom to hoist the Ottoman flag on the minarets, this custom shall be respected.

Administration of Revenues.

ART. III. The revenues of Bosnia and the Herzegovina shall be exclusively appropriated to the needs, to the administration of, and to the improvements deemed necessary in, those Provinces.

Current Ottoman Money.

ART. IV. The Ottoman currency shall continue to have free circulation in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Disposal of War Material, &c.

ART. V. The Sublime Porte shall dispose as it thinks fit of the arms, warlike stores, and other articles belonging to the Ottoman Government, and which were found in the fortified

places or in the garrisons. For this purpose inventories shall be prepared with the intervention of Commissioners of the two Governments.

Treatment of Inhabitants when outside the Provinces.

ART. VI. The question of the treatment of the inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina sojourning or travelling outside these provinces, shall be regulated subsequently by a special arrangement.

Mode in which Article XXV of the Treaty of Berlin is to be carried out. Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

ART. VII. To attain, in a common interest, the political and military object that Article XXV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) has in view concerning the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, the two Governments have resolved to regulate the mode in which it shall henceforward be carried into execution. For this purpose the Government of His Majesty the Emperor and King undertakes to give notice beforehand to the Government of His Majesty the Sultan of the time when the entrance of the Imperial and Royal troops shall take place.*

In order to prevent all unnecessary delay, the two Governments, each in so far as it is itself concerned, undertakes, should occasion arise, to furnish their authorities and commanders, without delay, with the full powers necessary to settle directly among themselves the questions connected with the subsistence of the Imperial and Royal troops, as well as to their quartering, and other details relating thereto. Moreover it is understood that all expenses incurred under this head shall be borne by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Presence of Troops in Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

ART. VIII. The presence of the troops of His Majesty the Emperor and King in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, will not interfere with the functions of the Ottoman administrative authorities, judicial or financial, of every kind, which will continue to be exercised as in former times under the exclusive and direct orders of the Sublime Porte.

* In September, 1879, the Austro-Hungarian troops occupied the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar; and on the 20th December following, a Law was passed including Bosnia and the Herzegovina within the Austro-Hungarian Customs Union. (See "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 718.)

[Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

Maintenance of Troops in Garrisons and Positions of Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

ART. IX. Should the Sublime Porte wish to maintain regular troops at the places in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar where the Austro-Hungarian troops shall be garrisoned, no obstacles shall be raised to it. The troops of the two States shall be placed on a footing of perfect equality with regard to their number and military advantages, and the freedom of their movements.

Non-employment by Porte of Irregular Troops.

The Sublime Porte engages to maintain no irregular troops throughout the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

Power of Austria to maintain Troops in Garrison.

ART. X. It is nevertheless understood that the power of Austria-Hungary to maintain a sufficient number of troops, as circumstances may require, at the places where it is intended to keep garrisons, in conformity with the stipulations of Article VII, is not to be restricted by these arrangements.

In faith of which the Plenipotentiaries of Austria-Hungary and of Turkey, have signed the present Convention, and have affixed to it the seal of their arms.

Constantinople, 21st April, 1879.

(L.S.) ZICHY.

(L.S.) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

(L.S.) MUNIF.

ANNEX TO THE ABOVE CONVENTION.

Occupation of Positions by Austrian Troops.

It is understood that, under the present circumstances, the Government of Austria-Hungary, while reserving to itself all the rights secured to it by Article XXV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), only intends to place garrisons at three points situated on the Lim, between the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro; these points being Priboï, Priépoliyé, Biélopoliyé. The number of troops at present destined for the

[Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

service of these garrisons will not exceed a total of between 4,000 and 5,000 men. If, in the course of events, the necessity should arise for placing garrisons at other points, it shall be carried out on both sides in accordance with the arrangements specified in Article VII, excepting that, should the Austrian Government have the intention of placing troops at points on the Balkan de Ragosna, it will be necessary to come to a direct understanding on that point with the Sublime Porte.

Constantinople, 21st April, 1879.

ZICHY.

AL. CARATHÉODORY,
MUNIF.

No. 546.—*ORGANIC STATUTE for Eastern Roumelia, drawn up by the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey. Constantinople, 26th April, 1879.**

(ABSTRACT OF PROVISIONS.)

CHAPTER I.—*Public Right of the Province.*

ARTS.

1. Province placed under the direct political and military authority of the Sultan, subject to conditions of administrative autonomy.
2. Boundaries as fixed by Art. XIV of Treaty of *Berlin* (No. 530).
3. Right of Sultan to defend land and sea frontiers of Province, in accordance with Arts. XV and XVI of Treaty of *Berlin* (No. 530). Non-entrance of *Ottoman* Troops into Province for any other purpose or on any other conditions.
4. Non-employment by Sultan of Irregular Troops, such as *Bashi-Bazouks* or *Circassians*.
5. No Colony of *Circassians* to be established in the Province.
6. Liability of natives to Military Service in Provincial Militia. Their Enrolment in *Ottoman* Army not compulsory.
7. Representation of Sultan in Province by a Christian Governor-General, nominated for a period of five years, with consent of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of *Berlin* (No. 530). Appointments of a Christian Secretary-General, of Directors of Administrative Service, Magistrates, General Officers, &c.
8. Administration of Justice in name of the Sultan.
9. Right reserved to Sultan of granting Pardon and Amnesty.
10. Establishment and Composition of a Provincial Assembly.
11. Laws of *Ottoman* Empire in force in *Eastern Roumelia*, when not opposed to Organic Statute. Power of Provincial Legislature to modify Laws.
12. Number of Deputies in Provincial Assembly.
13. Exclusive competency of legislative power of the Province. Passing of Laws.
14. Alteration of Laws.
15. Forests, Mines, &c.
16. (Tribute.) Share by *Eastern Roumelia* of general charges of the *Ottoman* Empire (see also Articles 194—201), in the proportion of three-tenths of its Revenues, with the exception of those which are reserved to the Empire. (See also Annex 9, page 2864.)

* See "State Papers," Vol. 70, p. 759. On the 16th May, 1879, a Firman was issued by the Sultan, ordering the execution of the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia, subject to the reservation of His Imperial Majesty's Sovereignty. See "State Papers," Vol. 71, page 700; and on the same day Aleko Pasha was appointed Governor General.

[Organic Statute. Eastern Roumelia.]

ART.

17. Revenues arising from Customs, Posts, and Telegraphs reserved to the Empire.
18. Legal Money of Province; the Gold Money of the Empire.
19. Customs, Posts, Telegraphs, Lighthouses, and Railways. Questions concerning the system of communications of the different Provinces of the Empire between themselves and of the Empire with Europe, as well as the Making and Sale of Arms for warlike purposes and Powder, reserved to the Empire.
20. Treaties, Conventions, and International Arrangements of whatever nature, concluded or to be concluded between the Porte and Foreign Powers, applicable in *Eastern Roumelia* the same as in all the *Ottoman* Empire. Immunities and Privileges acquired by Foreigners, whatever they may be, to be respected in the Province.
21. Public employés.
22. Languages to be used by or in communication with the Authorities.

CHAPTER II.—*Rights of Citizens.*

- 23—43. Naturalization. Religion. Property. Liberty of the Press, &c.

CHAPTER III.—*Of the Governor-General.*

- 44—55. The Powers and Duties.

CHAPTER IV.—*Of the Central Administration of the Province.*

- 56—67. Duties of six Administrators-General.

CHAPTER V.—*Of the Provincial Assembly.*

- 68—74. Composition of the Assembly.
- 75—85. Electorate, Eligibility, Elections.
- 86—98. *Régime* of the Assembly.
- 99—100. Attributes of the Assembly.
- 101—103. Right of the Assembly in matters relating to the Budget.
- 104—107. Permanent Committee.

CHAPTER VI.—*Of the Subdivisions of Provinces and their Administration.*

- 108—112. Administrative Divisions of the Province.
- 113—124. Departments; Departmental Administration.
- 125—155. Departmental Representation.
- 156—159. Cantons.
- 160—193. Communes; Urban and Rural.

CHAPTER VII.—*Finances.*

- 194—201. Revenues reserved to the Empire. Equivalent of net annual produce of Customs, valued at £T5,000, appertains to the Imperial Government. No Custom House to exist between *Eastern Roumelia* and the other Provinces of the Empire. Postal and Telegraph

[Organic Statute. Eastern Roumelia.]

ART.

Revenues. Lighthouses. Sanitary Office at *Bourgas*. (See also Annex, p. 9.)

202—212. Direction of Permanent Administration of the Finances in Departments and Communes.

213—219. Monopolies ;—Powder, Salt, Direct Contributions.

220—239. Indirect Contributions :—Tobacco, Spirits, Stamps, Octroi Duties.

CHAPTER VIII.—*Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works.*

240—247. General Provisions.

CHAPTER IX.—*The Judicial Authorities.*

248—334. General and Special Provisions.

CHAPTER X.—*Religion.*

335—346. Religious Liberty. Provisions of Art. LXII of the Treaty of *Berlin* (No. 530) relative to the protection of the Persons of Ecclesiastics, Pilgrims, and Monks, as well as of their Religious Establishments, &c., to receive their full effect in *Eastern Roumelia*.

CHAPTER XI.—*Public Instruction.*

347—361. Schools.

CHAPTER XII.—*Local Militia.*

362—453. Basis of Instruction. Recruitment. Military Service. Organization. Instruction. Engagements and Re-engagements. Mobilization, Administration, &c.

CHAPTER XIII.—*Gendarmerie.*

454—483. Basis of Institution. Organization, &c.

CHAPTER XIV.—*Landed Property.*

484—488. Projects of Law to be submitted to Provincial Assembly. Property of Religious Communities :—Mussulman or Non-Mussulman.

CHAPTER XV.—*Legal Status of Public Functionaries.*

489—494. Salary of Governor-General, &c.

Final Provisions.

495. Present Organic Statute not to be altered except after an Understanding between the Porte and the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty of *Berlin* (No. 530), except as regard Chapters XII (Number of Deputies in Provincial Assembly) and XIII (Powers of Legislative Assembly). Provisions of Regula-

[Organic Statute. Eastern Roumelia.]

tions, &c., annexed to present Statute, may be altered by a Provincial Law.

We, Commissioners of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty concluded at Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), declare and certify that the Statute of which the preceding provisions have been drawn up and voted by us is in conformity with Article XVIII of the same Treaty.

In faith of which we have signed the present Statute, and have affixed thereto the seal of our arms.

Constantinople, $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{4}{5}$ th April, 1879 (4 Djémazi-ul-Ewel, 1296).

(L.S.) ASSIM.

(L.S.) ABRO.

(L.S.) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.

(L.S.) KÁLLAY.

(L.S.) RING.

(L.S.) COUTOULY.

(L.S.) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

(L.S.) VERNONI.

(L.S.) TZERETELEW.

ANNEXES TO THE ORGANIC STATUTE.

- No. 1. Electoral Regulation.
 - No. 2. Attributes of Prefects.
 - No. 3. Competency of General Councils.
 - No. 4. Attributes of the Departmental Commission.
 - No. 5. Attributes of the *Baillis*.
 - No. 6. Regulation respecting Municipal Councils.
 - No. 7. Matters relating to the Municipal Police.
 - No. 8. Expenses necessary for the Urban Communes.
 - No. 9. Administration of the Finances (*see* p. 2864).
 - No. 10. Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works.
 - No. 11. Attributes of the Judicial Authorities.
 - No. 12. Provisional Regulations for the Militia.
 - No. 13. Provisional Regulations for the Gendarmerie.
-

ANNEX TO THE ORGANIC STATUTE OF EASTERN ROUMELIA, *respecting the Financial Relations of the Province with the Ottoman Empire.*—26th April, 1879.

(Translation.)

(Annex No. 9.)

Administration of the Finances. Règlement annexed to Chapter VII.

I. Financial Relations of the Province with the Empire.

§ I. THE annual revenues of Eastern Roumelia are estimated as averaging £T.800,000.* £T.240,000† are to be deducted annually from this sum by the Financial Administration of the Province, and are to be remitted to the Central Government of the Empire.

§ II. The payment of the £T.240,000 is to be carried out by quarterly payments every three months; the first payment to take place on the first day of the month of June (o. s.).

§ III. These quarterly payments are to be carried out at Philippopolis through the instrumentality of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

§ IV. Considering the present state of Eastern Roumelia, that Province will not participate in the general charges of the Empire during the first year of the financial arrangements established by the present Statute.

During the second year it is to pay £T.125,000.

§ V. After five years the fixed sum of £T.240,000 paid annually by the Province to the Central Government shall be increased by £T.20,000 a year during a fresh period of five years. After this second period, the Central Government and that of the Province shall examine whether the state of the finances of the latter will allow of a further increase in the sum to be paid by the Province.

The share of the Province shall always be calculated at the rate of three-tenths of its revenue. (See Art. 16 of the Organic Statute, page 2860.)

§ VI. The £T.5,000 representing the net annual produce

* See Note next page.

† This sum of £T.240,000 was assigned by the Porte to the Bondholders by Art. VII of an arrangement made with them dated 20th December, 1881 (No. 591).

of the Customs (see Art. 195 of Organic Statute, page 2861) are to be added to the £T.240,000 alluded to in Art. I above-mentioned, and their payment to the Central Government of the Empire is to be carried out according to the provisions of Art. II.

[On the 20th December, 1882 (**No. 596**), a Law was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia, altering § 1 of Annex 9 to the Organic Statute (**No. 546**), annulling the foregoing six Articles, and reducing the Turkish tribute to £T.180,000, on the ground that the annual revenues—with the exception of those reserved to the Empire, of the amounts collected on account of third parties, or on special account (*compte tiers*), and of the expenses for the collection of the taxes—were estimated at £T.600,000 for a period of five years from the 1st March, 1883; but the Council of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt took exception to this law when it was passed, as being likely seriously to affect the payment by Turkey of interest upon her debt; and neither the Treaty Powers nor the Porte gave their sanction to it. On the 3rd November, 1887 (**No. 625**), an Agreement was entered into between Turkey and the Bulgarian Government for the annual payment to the Porte of £T.130,000 on account of the Eastern Roumelian tribute.]

No. 547.—*CONSTITUTION of the Principality of Bulgaria. Tirnovo, $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁶₈th April, 1879.**CHAPTER I.—*The Territory of the Principality.*

ART.

1. The Territory of the Principality of *Bulgaria* cannot be increased or diminished without the consent of the Grand National Assembly.
2. Rectification of Frontiers.
3. Division of Territory administratively into Prefectures, Sub-Prefectures, and Communes.

CHAPTER II.—*Powers of the Prince ; and their Limits.*

4. The Principality of *Bulgaria* is an Hereditary and Constitutional Monarchy with a national representation.
5. The Prince is the supreme Representative and Chief of the State.
6. The Prince of *Bulgaria* to bear the title of Serene Highness ("Svetlost") and the Heir to the Throne that of ("Siatelstvo").
7. The Prince of *Bulgaria* cannot, without the assent of the Grand National Assembly, be at the same time the Sovereign of any other State.
8. The Person of the Prince is sacred and inviolable.
9. The Legislative Power belongs to the Prince and to the national representation.
10. The Prince sanctions and promulgates the Laws voted by the National Assembly.
11. The Prince is the Supreme Chief of all the Military Forces of the country in time of Peace as well as in time of War. He confers military grades, according to Law. Oath of Fidelity to be taken to the Prince.
12. The Executive Power belongs to the Prince.
13. The Judicial Power.
14. The Remission and Commutation of Sentences.
15. The Pardon of Criminals and Amnesty.
16. The Violation of the Constitution by Ministers.
17. The Prince is the representative of the Principality in all its relations with Foreign States. Conclusion, in his Name, and with the assent of the National Assembly, of Special Conventions with neighbouring Countries relative to the Administration of the Country, when they require the participation and help of those Governments.
18. Decrees and Regulations emanating from the Prince to be carried into effect when countersigned by Ministers.

* For an entire version of this Constitution, in the French language, see "State Papers," Vol. 70, p. 1303.

CHAPTER III.—*Residence of the Prince, and Heir to the Throne.*

19. Residence of the Prince within the Principality. Steps to be taken during his absence.
20. Residence within the Principality of the Heir to the Throne.

CHAPTER IV.—*The Arms of the Principality and National Flag.*

21—23.

CHAPTER V.—*Order of Succession to the Throne.*

24.

CHAPTER VI.—*On the Majority of the Prince, of the Regency, and of the "Tutelle."*

- 25—33. The Regency shall consist of three Regents who shall be elected by the Grand National Assembly.

CHAPTER VII.—*On the Succession to the Throne, and taking of the Oath.*

34.

CHAPTER VIII.—*On the Maintenance ("entretien") of the Prince and of the Members of the Princely House.*

35—36.

CHAPTER IX.—*Respecting Religion.*

37—42.

CHAPTER X.—*Respecting the Laws.*

43—50.

CHAPTER XI.—*Respecting the Goods belonging to the State.*

51—53.

CHAPTER XII.—*Respecting Bulgarian Citizenship.*SECTION 1.—*General Rules.*

54. Nationality. All Persons born in *Bulgaria*, who have not changed their Nationality, as well as those who are born abroad of Parents who are *Bulgarian* Subjects, are considered as Subjects of the *Bulgarian* Principality.
55. Naturalization. Foreigners can be admitted to *Bulgarian* Nationality, but only with the consent of the National Assembly.
56. Conditional right of *Bulgarians* to change their Nationality.
57. Equality of *Bulgarians* before the Law. No division into Classes allowed.
58. Titles of Nobility and other Distinctions, as well as Decorations, not allowed to exist.

[Constitution.]

59. Right of Prince to confer Military Decorations in time of War for Distinguished Services.

60—63. Civil and Political Rights. Slavery. Public Order. Immovable Property of Natives and Foreigners.

64. Position of Foreigners in the Principality regulated by Special Laws.

SECTION 2.—*On the Service of the State; and Public Functions.*

65. *Bulgarians.*

66. Admission of Foreigners with approval of National Assembly.

SECTION 3.—*On the Right of Property.*

67—68.

SECTION 4.—*On State Impôts and Contributions.*

69—70.

SECTION 5.—*Military Service.*

71—72.

SECTION 6.—*Inviolability of Persons, of Domicile, and of Correspondence.*

73—77.

SECTION 7.—*Public Education.*

78.

SECTION 8.—*Liberty of the Press.*

79—81.

SECTION 9.—*Liberty of Public Meeting and of forming Societies.*

82—83.

SECTION 10.—*Right of Petition.*

84.

CHAPTER XIII.—*National Representation.*

85. The Ordinary National Assembly, and the Grand National Assembly.

CHAPTER XIV.—*On the Ordinary National Assembly.*

86—104.

CHAPTER XV.—*Attributes of the National Assembly.*

105—107.

CHAPTER XVI.—*Presentation and Examination of Projects of Laws, &c.*

108—118.

CHAPTER XVII.—*On Rules respecting Projects of Law.*

119—122.

CHAPTER XVIII.—*On State Loans.*

123—126.

CHAPTER XIX.—*On the Convocation of the Assembly.*

127—139.

CHAPTER XX.—*On the Grand National Assembly.*

140—147.

CHAPTER XXI.—*On the Council of Ministers; the Ministry.*

148—166.

CHAPTER XXII.—*On the Mode of Revising and Amending the Constitution.*

167—169.

Tirnovó, $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ th April, 1879.

VEDENOKÉ ANTHEM,
President of the National Assembly.

The following note was added by Mr. Palgrave, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sofia, to the English translation laid before Parliament:—

“Here follow the names of the Russian Referee, the ten Secretaries, the two Questors (tellers), and the remaining 197 Members of the Assembly of Notables at Tirnovó, the Russian Referee excluded who discussed and fashioned the Constitution.”

[On the 9th May, 1881, a Proclamation was issued by Prince Alexander, suspending the Bulgarian Constitution; and, on the 13th July following, the National Assembly met and confirmed the proposal, which had been submitted to the country, that the Prince should be invested with extraordinary powers for seven years. On the 5th June, 1881, two Decrees were issued, one appointing special military tribunals, and the other for the punishment of press offences (“State Papers,” Vol. 72, pages 1248 and 1249). The Constitution was re-established by a Manifesto, dated Sophia, $\frac{6}{18}$ th September, 1883.]

No. 548.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the European Commissioners appointed under Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) for the Organization of Eastern Roumelia. 30th September, 1878—3rd June, 1879.**

CONFERENCES were held between the Commissioners of the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**) respecting the Organization of Eastern Roumelia, from the 30th September, 1878, till the 3rd June, 1879.

The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff; and The Earl of Donoughmore; and Mr. Thomas Michell (Consul-General for Eastern Roumelia), Assistant Commissioner.

For Austria-Hungary, M. de Kallay.

For France, Baron de Ring; and M. de Contouly-Dorset, Assistant Commissioner.

For Germany, M. de Braunschweig.

For Italy, Le Chevalier Alex. Vernoni (in place of Lieutenant Colonel Gola, deceased).

For Russia, Colonel Schepeliew, First Commissioner; and Prince Tzerstelew, Second Commissioner.

For Turkey, His Excellency Assim Pasha, First Commissioner; and Abro Effendi, Second Commissioner.

The first meeting was held at Canlidja on the 30th September, 1878. In the following month the meetings were held at Stamboul, Canlidja, and Therapia. From the 2nd November, 1878, till the 27th March, 1879, the Commissioners met at Philippopolis; from the 5th April till the 21st May they held their meetings at Galata Serai (Constantinople); and from the 26th May till the 3rd June, 1879, at Philippopolis. (For Protocols Nos. 1 to 70, see "Parliamentary Papers," Turkey, No. 9, Parts I and II, 1879.)

The Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia was signed at Galata Serai (Constantinople) on the 26th April, 1879 (**No. 546**), and an abstract of its Provisions is given at page 2860.

* See also *Projet de Loi* for the European Provinces of Turkey in Europe (Roumelia) 23rd August, 1880 (**No. 575**).

No. 549.—*ACT of the European Commission (Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey), defining the Boundary between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, in accordance with Article II of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Signed at Therapia, 14th August, 1879.**

(Translation.)

THE Berlin Congress having stipulated, by Article II of the Treaty concluded on July $\frac{1}{18}$, 1878 (**No. 530**), that the boundary of the new Principality of Bulgaria should be defined on the spot by an European Commission, on which the Powers parties to the Treaty should be represented :

Their Majesties the German Emperor, and the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, the President of the French Republic, their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the King of Italy, the Emperor of All the Russias, and the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, have to that effect appointed as their Commissioners, namely :—

His Majesty the German Emperor, Major Count Carl von Wedel, of the General Staff, Military Attaché to the German Embassy at Vienna ;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, Colonel Baron Charles Christian Henry de Ripp, of the General Staff ;

The President of the French Republic, Major Jules Victor Lemoyne, of the General Staff ;

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Major-General Sir Edward Bruce Hamley ;

His Majesty the King of Italy, Lieutenant-Colonel Balthasar Alexander Orero, of the General Staff ;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, Colonel Andrew Bogolubow, of the General Staff, Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the Emperor of Russia ;

His Majesty the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, Major-General his Excellency Mahommed Tahir Pasha, of the General Staff ;

* This Act was signed in French, and a version of it, in that language, is given in the "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 1274.

Who, provided with their powers and instructions, have formed themselves into a Commission at Constantinople, and have agreed upon the principles to be applied to the drawing of the frontier line, and particularly upon the stipulation contained in Article II of the Treaty, directing them to take into consideration the necessity for His Majesty the Sultan to be able to defend the Balkan frontiers of Eastern Roumelia; and, after inspecting such localities as might raise matter for discussion, have defined the frontier between the Principality of Bulgaria and the Province of Eastern Roumelia under the following conditions:—

Art. 1. To the southward, the frontier line of Bulgaria ascends, from its mouth in the Black Sea, the *thalweg* of the Tchivté-Déré, leaving to Bulgaria the villages of Hodjakioi, Aivadjik, Djéferli, and Goulitza (Sudzuluk), and to Eastern Roumelia those of Gések, Jenikioj, and Karmandja.

From the head of that *thalweg* at 2500 metres to the south-east of Belibe it descends, through a little ravine running from east to west, into the Dermen-Déré, the course of which it follows as far as the bend where this rivulet, previously flowing from the south-east to the north-west, turns suddenly towards the north. Afterwards the frontier line stretches across a series of ravines and defiles, following a general direction from the south-south-east to the north-north-west, between the Balaban-Déré and the Délédji-Déré, as far as the foot of the Pilav-Tépé; it ascends, always in the same direction, the summit of that mountain, the ridge of which it follows, and again descends into the Déli-Kamtchik, which it intersects at a spot situated 2850 metres above and westward of Pchengi, and 1825 metres below and to the north-east of Hadji-Mahalé. Thus the village of Belibe and the ruins of Kemhalik remain to Bulgaria, while the villages of Tchovankioj, Kaïrak-Mahalé, and Kosik are left to Eastern Roumelia.

From the left bank of the Déli-Kamtchik, and across the rocky ridge ending at the spot previously described, the frontier goes up to the crest of the Kapi-Baïr. It then stretches over the line of watershed between the Déli-Kamtchik and the Bouyouk-Kamtchik, leaving to Bulgaria the villages of Aidos-Bredja, Kaïardi, Lopouchna, Bektchi, and to Eastern Roumelia those of Hadji-Mahalé, Tikenlik, Dokhankioj, Karaveliler, Dérekioj and Aivadjik. It then follows the Karnabad-Balkan

between Baïram-Déré and K'érémétli nearly as far as the road leading from Tchali-Kavak, in the Ak-Déré, to Kamtchi-Mahalé. The terrace which extends 500 metres to the north of the defile intersected by that road, and which bears the name of Dobral Pass, remains to Eastern Roumelia; then the frontier line meets, to the north of an abandoned battery, the crest of the Débélitch-Balkan and stretches over the line of water-parting by Tiouli-Baïr, Monainar-Baïr, and Tépékiotch, until it meets the road from Verbitza to Sungurlar and Jousouflou. From that point, and over a course of about 3 kilometres, the frontier deviates from the line of water-parting in order to follow the eastern ridge of the said road, wherever this road expands itself over the eastern slopes of a series of small hillocks. It intersects this road at the branching off of a path which leads directly to a military post in ruins situated at 1 kilometre to the north-west-west, and then runs along the ridge called Prisevica and Asap-Balkan on the Austrian map.

At 2600 metres east-north-east of the Kotel Pass, the frontier line meets a small tableland, around the exterior ridge of which it turns on the northern slope, then following the line of watershed and making a bend at a right angle, it reaches at 500 metres from that bend the opening of a deep ravine, where the road from Kotel to Osman-Bazar descends by a steep declivity; thence it reaches the neighbouring turning of the road which it intersects, follows the western side of it for the distance of 1 kilometre, leaves it close to the opening of another steep ravine, in order to go round the Koulé-Tépé, again runs along the outer edge of the road as far as the narrow passage between the two hills, and after following the military ridge in such a way as to leave one after the other to Roumelia the crests of the three heights situated to the west of the pass, resumes at $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres from that pass its course along the ridge of the Kazan-Balkan.

At 9 kilometres to the west of the Kotel Pass the frontier line merges, within the principal range of the Balkan Mountains, into the line of the great watershed, following a general direction from east to west, which divides the waters of the tributaries of the Danube on the north from those which, to the southward, flow into the Black Sea through the valley of the Déli-Kamtchik, and soon afterwards into the Ægean through the valleys of the Toundja, of the Strema (Giopsou-Déré), and of the Topolnitz.

It only swerves from it on the northern slope in the following places :

Pass of Demir-Kapou.

Pass of Demir-Kapou.—Military ridge from the place where the steep road ascending from Stara-Rieka (in Bulgaria) reaches this summit at 825 metres to the west of the spot where it descends towards Slivno (in Eastern Roumelia). Then the watershed through Zoupantzi-Mesari, Biéla Krava, Tchoumourna (727).

Tvarditza Pass.

Tvarditza Pass.—Military ridge marked out by a rocky slope from the hillock situated 700 metres to the west of the great bend (514) in the road, as far as the defile situated at 1500 metres to the west of that bend; the frontier intersects the road at 150 metres before and below the bend.

Hain Boghaz Pass.

Hain Boghaz Pass.—From a hillock situated at 1300 metres to the north-east of the defile (321), and 1600 metres to the east of Porovtzi, a line drawn at 120 metres, on a parallel with the ridge of the spur connecting the watershed with the tableland overlooking Botchkovtzi, situated to the north, Biéjivtzi and Ivanovotzi to the west, going round that tableland by way of its military summit, and running again parallel with the line of heights, in an opposite direction and at the same average distance of 120 metres, until it has passed the hillock situated at 1500 metres to the west of the pass. Then the line of the great watershed through the spot 445, 3 and the summit of Mrazietz.

Travna Pass.

Travna Pass.—Military ridge from a point situated at 375 metres to the south-east of the defile, marked out by the sharpest turning of the road as far as the defile situated to the south-east of the coal mines, so as to leave to Eastern Roumelia the Gora Krestietz (480) to the north and the three hillocks to the south of the great bend in the road, with a rayon of about 350 metres around those various summits; thus the frontier line intersects the road at 350 metres to the north-west of the great bend above-mentioned. Then the line of the great watershed

through the Gora Bolgarka, Bidek, Tchetchoumek, Attovo-Padalo, Bouzloundja, Biéli Kladenitzi, Tirsova (Tirsiouvitz).

Shipka Pass.

Shipka Pass.—Military ridge from a point situated at 300 metres to the south of Démir-Tépé, so as to give to Eastern Roumelia this height, that of Demievitz, and the terrace below Mount Sveti Nicolai; western bank of this terrace up to 20 metres from the road; line drawn parallel at 20 metres from the outer edge of this road, leaving however to Bulgaria the two Russian cemeteries which are in the ravine to the eastward; segment of a circle with a radius of 40 metres around the summit of the Ouzoun-Kouch; line becoming again parallel to the road, to the westward and at 20 metres from the roadside as far as the rise of Mount Shipka (Krouglaja-Batarej); military ridge at an average distance of 100 metres below the line of watershed, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the heights of Bachenitza, Malich, and Lizaia, as far as 600 metres to the north of Lizaia Gora. Then the line of the great watershed by the defile of the Vetropolska-Poljana, the summits of Kourita, Maloboska-Poljana, Tchervena-Lokva, Develdjaskaja-Poljana, Biéli-Kladinietz, the Rozalita Pass, the Gorna Maragedik, the trigonometrical mark 1113, the Gora Joumrouktzal, the Gora Krivianiti (1061), the Gladi-Dol, and the Ostra-Mogila, between which lies the path leading from Czerni-Osem to Karlovo, the Amboritza (1000), the mark 811, near the Lake Sari-Gœl, which remains to Eastern Roumelia, the Ventzeti Balkan, the marks 740, 739, 792, and the trigonometrical sign 774.

Trojan Pass.

Trojan Pass.—Military ridge from the sign 774 to a small defile situated at 1150 metres to the westward of the spot where the road goes over the crest line. Then the line of the great watershed by the marks 749 and 755 of the Midistri-Balkan, the Gora, Kozia-Stienka, Selva, Sovrano-Stiéna, and the Démir-Kapou.

Ribaritza Pass.

Ribaritza Pass (Rabanica on the Austrian Map).—Military ridge commanding the depression in the land (*la conque*) where the road from Biéli-Vid to Rachmanli rises, from Démir-Kapou

and below the Joumrouk as far as 1500 metres to the east of Vejen. Then the line of the great watershed through Vejen, Balavan, Pascal (954, 2) to the seventh hillock 1750 metres west of the last-named summit. (This spot, called Djémina on the southern slope, and Pascal on the northern one, corresponds with the turning point fixed by Article II of the Treaty of Berlin, under the name of Koşica.)

At Kosica the frontier line leaves the ridge of the main range of the Great Balkan, descends towards the south by the thalweg of the Gramotnika as far as the confluence of that river with the Topolnitza, leaving on the westward the peak of Monastirski-Kamik and the ruins of the Monastery of Sveti-Elia, and passing between the villages of Pirtop and Douchantzi, one of which is left to Bulgaria, the other to Eastern Roumelia.

From the confluence of the Gramotnika with the Topolnitza (or Tuzlu-Déré), it follows from east to west towards Petricevo the course of the latter river, as far as 2050 metres above its confluence with the Smolsko-Déré.

From there the frontier runs from south to north, for a distance of 750 metres through a tributary ravine, and then turns at a right angle from east to west into another ravine as far as the small defile to the north of Kerbova; it reaches to the northward the summit of Mala-Mogila, again turns towards the west, leaves the Govlema-Mogila to Eastern Roumelia, and descends into the Mirkovo-Déré through the third ravine on the northern side, and above the confluence of the Mirkovo-Déré with the Smolsko-Déré; it follows the Mirkovo-Déré as far as the said confluence, and then ascends the Smolsko-Déré to a spot situated in front of the second tributary ravine on the left above this confluence and at 2200 metres above the place where the Smolsko-Déré flows into the Topolnitza; then turning towards the south-west it reaches in a straight line the summit of the neighbouring hillock of the Koliba-Bodiat.

The frontier follows then, towards the west and north-west, the line of the watershed of the rivelets of the Smolsko-Déré and the Kamenitza up to a summit situated at 500 metres to the south-west of the Sveta-Petka, and at 1 kilometre to the south of Voyniak (469, 1). Keeping along the line of heights it reaches the summit of Kamenitza-Mera, turns to the south between the waters of the Kamenitza on one side and those of the Ravna and

the Seliska on the other, reaches the mark 558 (Gora-Jkounita), which corresponds with the spot marked 875 on the Austrian map, and specified in Article II of the Treaty; passes the point 544 and Raïeva-Glava, continues in a line parallel with the Kriva-Riéka, which remains to Bulgaria together with the hamlet of Bogdanovitz (Bogdina on the Austrian map), as far as mark 446, and intersects the road from Vakarel to Ichtiman at 520 metres below the confluence of the Kriva-Riéka with the Ichtiman-Déré; this spot is marked out by the ruins of the first of two military posts which defended the entrance to the upper basin of the valley, in the narrow passage where the road, the rivulet with its right bank protected by a work in masonry, and the cutting of the railway in course of construction, press upon each other; the site of the military post remains to Eastern Roumelia.

After crossing perpendicularly the road, the rivulet, and the railway, the frontier follows, on the right bank of the Ichtiman-Déré, the line of hillocks forming the south-easterly limit of the basin of the Babina-Riéka, passes along at 800 metres to the north of Chamchadinova, intersects at 1800 metres to the north of Adjanza a tributary ravine of the valley of Hadjilar (Riéka-Bozalan), and runs along the nearest ridge in a direction parallel to that valley.

Thus the frontier reaches the Sivri-Tépé (482), where it turns towards the south in order to follow the line of the watershed between the Isker and Maritza; it crosses the road from Tchiamourli to Ichtiman at the defile marked 404, goes up along a slope as far as the ridge of the Kara-Baïr, which it reaches at a hillock situated at 900 metres to the west of Gorni-Kalé, stretches over the ridge, in a direction from east to west, as far as the next hillock, and then descends directly to the defile where the Tchernia-Rieka rises. Still following the same watershed, it ascends again to the summit of the Velina-Mogila, intersects the minor road from Novo-Selo to Gutzal, goes by the Gutzalski-Vrh, keeping close to a military post, in ruins, which defended the road from Samakov to Banja, and the site of which is left to Eastern Roumelia, intersects the said road a few metres lower, takes by way of the Priova-Ravnisti and the Vitana the direction of the defile out of which the Siganska-Déré flows, crosses the wood of the Sumnatica by intersecting the direct road from Samakov to Radwil, and reaches the slopes of the Rhodope at the very

narrow defile where two small tributaries of the Maritza and of the Velica-Bistritza, the Slivnitza and the Loucovitza, running in opposite directions, seem to flow into each other.

From that defile, across a spur which divides the high waters of the Maritza and the Velica-Bistritza, and across a summit called Tcham-Kourou, the frontier meets between Sivri-Tach and Cadir Tépé, the principal ridge of the Rhodope, marked on the Austrian map as the limit of the old Sandjak of Sophia.

2. The line of demarcation between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, from the Black Sea to near Cadir Tépé, is laid down with full details, in a sketch on a scale of $\frac{1}{42000}$, drawn from the surveys of the Russian Topographers, which, being annexed hereto,* will serve as an explanatory document in all cases where the text might give rise to any doubts.

All distances stated in the preceding Article have been measured on the said sketch in a straight line and horizontally. By "military ridge" ("crête militaire") is understood the line of points from which a slope, as a rule gentle enough as it proceeds from a summit or a line of heights, becomes more accentuated and more rapid in forming the bank of a valley, a river, or a ravine.

3. According to the last paragraph of Article II of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), the Ottoman Government cannot erect any fortification on the territory of Eastern Roumelia within a rayon of 10 kilometres around Samakov.

The segment of a circle, which forms on the eastern side the zone within which Turkey is precluded from erecting any fortification, leaves the frontier at 200 metres to the south of the summit of Velima-Mogila, intersects the road from Banja to Samakov at 2200 metres to the north-west of the Church of Gutzal, passes by the latter village at 1250 metres to the west of it, and at the same distance to the west of the Church of Radwil, runs afterwards nearly parallel to the Maritza for a distance of between 5 and 6 kilometres, and finally meets the frontier at the Tcham-Kourou.

This line is marked on the sketch annexed to the description of the frontier.*

* These original sketches, in 19 sheets, are preserved in the library of the Foreign Office. See Catalogue of Maps, "Turkey 28a."

Shipka Pass Cemetery.

4. In order to comply with the wish unanimously expressed by the Plenipotentiaries of the Seven Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, and from a feeling of respect for the memory of the men killed on the battlefield in the ravines of Shipka, no opposition will be offered to the free passage of private individuals or of processions proceeding with a pious object by the high-road to the two large cemeteries which form part of Bulgaria in conformity with Article I of the present Act, and in which are laid the remains of the Russian soldiers killed around the pass; the less important cemeteries as well as the isolated tombs which exist in these localities in the territory allotted to Eastern Roumelia shall be under the protection of the Government of that province, which shall cause them to be respected and kept in good repair.

5. It shall be the business of the interested parties to take by mutual agreement such steps as they may deem useful in order to establish landmarks on the various frontiers in conformity with the tracing determined upon by the Commission.

In order to facilitate this task in the neighbourhood of Shipka, the frontier-line in the vicinity of that pass has been specially described on a plan upon a scale of $\frac{1}{21,000}$, drawn in duplicate, to be presented respectively to the representatives of Turkey and Bulgaria in the Boundary Commission.

Rights of Pasture and of Cutting Wood in Frontier Forests.

6. It will be also the business of the interested parties to settle directly or upon a mutual understanding, in order to maintain them or to commute them by equivalent compensations, the rights of pasture and of cutting wood in the forests which certain frontier parishes may enjoy by virtue of deeds, possession, or prescription, over territories ascribed by the present Act to a neighbouring principality or province.

Customs Laws Regulations.

Such arrangements, moreover, shall be introduced in the Customs laws and regulations to be made hereafter, as shall guarantee the material interests of the frontier populations.

Property Rights of Individuals over Real Estate.

In conformity with the precise stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), the property rights of individuals over real estate situated in any principality or province other than that in which they reside, remain unimpaired.

7. The present Act, containing seven Articles, and drawn up with the annexed sketch, specified in Articles 2 and 3, in seven identical copies, one for each Power represented on the Boundary Commission, has been signed by all the Commissioners in virtue of their powers and instructions.

It shall immediately be submitted to the Governments of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for their approval, by their respective Commissioners, and communicated afterwards to the parties interested to be executed by them.*

Done at Therapia, the fourteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

(L.S.) E. B. HAMLEY.

(L.S.) C. CTE. VON WEDEL.

(L.S.) C. C. DE RIPP.

(L.S.) J. V. LEMOYNE.

(L.S.) B. ORERO.

(L.S.) A. BOGOLUBOW.

(L.S.) M. TAHIR.

* For approval of Treaty Powers, see Notes, August, September, 1880 (No. 577).

No. 550.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Servia, and Turkey, appointed to define the new Frontier of Servia (including the Boundary between Servia and Bulgaria)* as fixed by Art. XXXVI of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) 12th May—19th August, 1879.†*

[For Protocols Nos. 1—7, 22nd October to 17th November, 1878, see **No. 536.**]

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.‡

PROTOCOL.

No. 8. Regret of Commission at Decease of *Italian* Commissioner, Lieut.-Colonel Gola; Major Velini appointed his Successor. Other changes in the Commission; Major Wilson replaced by Captain Anderson, Colonel M. Jovanovitch by Colonel Zdravkovitch, Lieut.-Colonel Petrovitch and Major Velimirovitch, appointed Assistants. Withdrawal of Colonel Djevad Bey from the Commission. Decision of Commission to commence their labours by the Delimitation of the *Serbo-Bulgarian* Frontier, starting from *Babina Gora*. Commission to meet again at *Vranja*.

Nisch, 12th May, 1879.

No. 9. *Turkish* Commissioner authorized to proceed to the Delimitation of the *Bulgarian* Frontier. Withdrawal of *Servian* Protest made at 5th and 6th sittings (page 2817). Acceptance of Boundary Tracings and Specification. Establishment of a Sub-Commission to watch over Topographical Work. Nomination of Members. Boundary Marks. Commission to proceed to *Barbarouchinze*.

Vranja, 19th May, 1879.

* See Protocol, 21st October, 1878 (No. 538), page 2823.

† The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain :	{ Captain S. Anderson. Lieut. J. F. G. Ross of Bladensburg (Assistant).
„ Austria-Hungary :	Lieutenant-Colonel Bilimek.
„ France :	M. G. Aubaret, Consul-General.
„ Germany :	Major von Alten.
„ Italy :	Major A. Velini.
„ Russia :	Colonel Baron A. Kaulbars.
„ Servia :	{ Colonel Zdravkovitch. Lieutenant-Colonel Petrovitch, } Assistants. Major Velimirovitch,
„ Turkey :	{ General Yahya Pasha. Major Abdul-Hamid Bey, } Assistants. Adjutant-Major Avni Bey,

‡ For the full text of these Protocols, in the French language, see “Parliamentary Paper,” Turkey, No. 2, 1880.

[Servian Boundary.]

PROTOCOL.

- No. 10. Difficulties on the *Turco-Servian* Frontier between the Inhabitants of *Servia* and those of *Novi-Bazar*. Discussion on Question of "Form" or "Principle." Telegraphic Communications.
Toplidol, 24th May, 1879.
- No. 11. *Russian* Topographical Sketches of part of Frontier:—*Polianitza*, *Kanilug*, *Mestitza*.
Klissura, 26th May, 1879.
- No. 12. Dr. Dimitrievitch placed at service of Commission by *Servian* Government. Letter read from President of *Bulgarian* Commission respecting *Bulgaro-Servian* Boundary. Reply thereto. Communication to *Bulgarian* Commission. Result of Labours of *Servian* Commission. Appointment of Major Hamid-Bey, Adjutant-Major Arni Bey and two other *Turkish* Staff Officers as Delegates to assist in Delimitation of Boundary from *Polianitza* to *Kanilug*.
Trn, 30th May, 1879.
- No. 13. Discussion as to the point in the *Pirot-Sophia* road from which are to be measured the 1000 mètres prescribed by Art. II of Berlin Treaty. Decision that they should be measured from a point midway between *Le Han* (Inn) and the mill at the western extremity of the village of *Segusa*. Discussion as to Delimitation of Frontier between the point where the 1000 mètres terminate and the *Stol*, and between the *Pirot-Sophia* road and the *Vidlitz Planina*.
Segusa, 6th June, 1879.
- No. 14. Proposal of *Italian* Commissioner as to identity of *Mount Radocina*. *Italian* and *German* Commissioners charged with the work of finding a point to represent the Mountain in question.
Slavinia, 12th June, 1879.
- No. 15. Point submitted by *Italian* and *German* Commissioners to represent *Mount Radocina*. Discussion as to its acceptance. Objection by *Servian* Commissioner. Proposal made by him rejected, and point indicated by *Italian* and *German* Commissioners accepted by Commission. Delimitation from *Vidlitz Planina* to that point (*Mount Radocina*). Commission adopts in principle the straight line. (Annex.) Account of work done by *Italian* and *German* Commissioners in the matter of the *Mount Radocina* Question.
Slavinia, 13th June, 1879.
- No. 16. *Turkish* Commissioner absent, owing to indisposition; Gabriel Effendi represents him. Colonel Zdravkovitch, *Servian* Commissioner, replaced by Colonel Jovanovitch. Letter from M. Ristitch read (Annex 1) relating to telegrams addressed to him after the sitting recounted in Prot. No. 10. Delimitation of *Turco-Servian* Frontier. Proposal by Commissioner for *Italy* that Delimitation should commence at *Prepolatz*, thence to *Kanilug*, where Commissioners should divide into two parties, one to return to *Prepolatz*, and determine Frontier between that place and *Polianitza*, the other to proceed to *Belgrade*, and settle *Mali-Zvornik* Question. Not accepted. Decision to commence at *Polianitza*. Representation of *Ottoman* Government in Commission during illness of Yahya Pasha.
Nisch, 29th June, 1879.

[Servian Boundary.]

PROTOCOL.

No. 17. Yahya Pasha replaced by Colonel Djavad Bey. Discussion of *Prepolatz* Question (Annex 1). Propositions by *Servian* and *Ottoman* Commissioners rejected. Joint proposition by *French* and *Austrian* Commissioners (Annex 2).

Prepolatz, 14th July, 1879.

No. 18. *Franco-Austrian* proposition with regard to *Prepolatz* Question. Accepted by all except *Ottoman* Commissioner. Delimitation in the direction of *Kanilug*. In reply to demand of *Ottoman* Commissioner and of *Russian* Commissioner, Commission refuse to regulate differences between *Servian* population and that of *Novi-Bazar* and of *Bulgaria* respectively.

Prepolatz, 16th July, 1879.

No. 19. Discussion of *Kanilug* Question. Western limit of *Sandjak of Nisch*. Petition respecting *Kanilug* presented by Inhabitants of *Novi-Bazar*. *Turkish* demand with regard to. Commission decide that petition cannot be inserted. New Tracing of *Prepolatz* line adopted. *Austrian*, *Servian*, and *Turkish* Votes given *ad referendum*.

Tchernatova, 20th July, 1879.

No. 20. Commission decide that it is unnecessary to go to *Mali-Zvornik*. *Servian* Vote *ad referendum* on *Prepolatz* Question definitive.

Belgrade, 30th July, 1879.

No. 21. Colonel Djavad Bey replaced by General Yahya Pasha. *Austrian* Vote *ad referendum* on *Prepolatz* Question definitive. Note by *Austrian* Commissioner explanatory of his Vote (Annex). Archives to be deposited in *French* Legation in *Servia*. Topographical Works to be reproduced in England. Duplicate of Works relative to *Bulgaro-Servian* Frontier sent to President of *Bulgarian* Commission.

Belgrade, 6th August, 1879.

No. 22. Thanks of *Italian* Government with regard to communications expressing regret at decease of Colonel Gola. *Turkish ad referendum* Vote on *Prepolatz* Question definitive. Question therefore settled.*

Belgrade, 9th August, 1879.

No. 23. Close of proceedings. Work finished. Vote of thanks to Topographical Sub-Commission and to President.

Belgrade, 19th August, 1879.

[The Boundary Act was signed on the 19th August, 1879 (No. 551).]

* On the 18th August, 1879, Captain Anderson reported to the Marquis of Salisbury that, at a meeting held on the 9th of that month, General Yahya Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner, informed the Commission that the Sublime Porte had definitely accepted the frontier line marked at Prepolac; and that, consequently, the whole of the new Turco-Servian boundary, as marked by the Commission, from the Kopaonik to Crni-Vrh, had been accepted by all the Commissioners, and that the whole new Servian frontier, as laid down by Art. XXXVI of the Treaty of Berlin, had been marked on the ground. ("Parliamentary Paper," Turkey, No. 2 (1880), page 252).

No. 551.—*ACT of the European Commission (Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Servia, and Turkey), defining the New Frontier of Servia, in accordance with Article XXXVI of the Treaty of Berlin* (No. 530). Signed at Belgrade, 19th August, 1879.†*
(Translation.)

A descriptive Statement of the New Servian Boundary.

THE Commission for defining the boundaries of Servia, consisting of the delegates of the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin, as well as those of Servia, namely :

For Great Britain, Captain S. Anderson, assisted by Lieutenant J. F. G. Ross of Bladensburg ;

For Germany, Major von Alten ;

For Austria-Hungary, Lieutenant-Colonel Bilimek ;

For France, M. G. Aubaret, Consul-General ;

For Italy, Major A. Velini ;

For Russia, Colonel A. Kaulbars ;

For Turkey, General Yahya Pasha, assisted by Major Abdul-Hamid Bey and Adjutant-Major Avny Bey ;

For Servia, Colonel M. Jovanovitch, assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel Petrovitch and Major Velimirovitch ;

in conformity with Article XXXVI of the Treaty of Berlin, (No. 530) have defined and traced the new Servian frontier as follows :—

Boundary between Servia and Bosnia.

1. The new frontier follows the present tracing, ascending the thalweg of the Drina from its confluence with the Save, leaving to the Principality Mali-Zvornik and Sakhar, and continues to follow the old boundary of Servia as far as the Kopaonik.

2. The Commission, after having ascertained that there did not exist on the Kopaonik a summit of the Kanilug, answering to the description given in the Treaty, nor a western boundary of the Sandjak of Nisch sufficiently well defined to serve as a basis for a frontier, have adopted the point marked as Vampirov-

* This Commission sat from 22nd October till 17th November, 1878 (No. 536), and from 12th May till 19th August, 1879 (No. 550).

† This Act was signed in French, and a version of it in that language is given in the "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 1319.

[Servian Boundary.]

Grob, on Plan No. 11, as the starting point of the old Servian boundary, and they have marked it themselves on the ground, by means of a post (see Note Book No. 1, and Plan 12).

3. No southern Spur of the Kopaonik being found in the direction required by the Treaty, the Commission have adopted as a frontier a line starting from the Vampirov-Grob and stretching towards Mount Kotchatina (see Note Book No. 1, and Plan 11).

4. From Mount Kotchatina the frontier follows strictly, with the exception of three points mentioned below, the watershed between the basins of the Ibar, the Sitnitza and the Kriva-Réka on one side, and those of the Toplitza, the Medvédja, and the Véternitza on the other, as far as the Crni-Kamen in the range of the Polianitza mountains. The three points above referred to are :—

- (1.) At Prépolatz, in order not to intersect the Pritchina Road nor to keep too close to it (see Note Book No. 1, and Plan 14; see also the plan of Prépolatz).
- (2.) Near Mirovtzé, where the drawing of the frontier concedes a few fields to Turkey (see Note Book No. 1, and Plan 14).
- (3.) At Schaïtj, in order not to cut in two that village, the greater part of which belonged to Turkey (see Note Book No. 1, and Plan 17).

5. From the Crni-Kamen the frontier follows the ridge as far as Mount Sveti-Ilia, leaving the basin of the Trnava to Turkey, and that of the Véternitza to Servia. From Mount Sveti-Ilia it descends as far as the confluence of the Koïnska with the Morava by the spur of the Karpina, which leaves to Servia the basin of the brook of Davidovatz (see Note Book No. 2, and Plan 19).

6. The frontier crosses the Morava and ascends again, going round the village of Raïstovatz, by the watershed between the Koïnska and the first brook below it, as far as the ridge which forms the watershed between the Morava and the Ptchinia (see Note Book No. 2, and Plan No. 20). Thence it follows the watershed between the basins of the Morava and the Vardar, going over the summits of Motina, of Klioutch, as well as over the ridge of the Babina-Gora, *as far as the Crni-Vrh.**

* Altered to "as far as Mount Pataritza, situated at 4 kilomètres to the south of the Crni-Vrh." See page 2888.

*Boundary between Serbia and Bulgaria.**

7. From Mount Crni-Vrh, on the summit of which† the Bulgaro-Turkish (Macedonia), Servo-Bulgarian and Servo-Turkish frontiers meet, as far as the neighbourhood of Mount Stol (see Post 365 on Plan No. 6), the frontier follows the watershed between the basins of the Morava on one side, and of the Strouma and the Soukova-Réka (confluence of the Nichava) on the other. Along that course the Commission has decided :—

- (1.) To leave to Serbia the principal peak of Mount Strécher and the whole of Mount Stol, because those two heights are outside the line of the watershed.
- (2.) To go round the village of Vlassina, intersected by the line of the watershed, together with some fields belonging to it, leaving them to Serbia (see Note Book and Plan No. 3).
- (3.) To leave to Serbia a portion of the village of Préséka (see Note-book and Plan No. 5).

*Boundary between Serbia and Bulgaria.**

The Commission state also that they have been unable to define on the ground the exact position of the summits of the Medjid-Planina, Gatchina, Crna-Trava, Darkovska and Draï-nitza, mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) (see the Specifying Note-book).

8. From the point 365 on Plan No. 6, as far as the neighbourhood of the Stol, the frontier stretches towards point No. 1 upon the ridge of the Kodja-Balkan. This point has been fixed by the Commission by means of a geometrical construction, founded upon the data of the Austrian map and of the Russian Topographical Survey, because the mount Radotchina of the Treaty could not be identified on the ground (see Note-book, Protocol No. 14, and Plan No. 8). This portion of the frontier intersects successively the valleys of the Soukova, of the Nichava,

* This part of the frontier is laid down in detail in Part III of the Act of September 20, 1879 (No. 553), page 2902.

† Altered to "From Mount Pataritza, on the summit of which." See page 2888.

[Servian Boundary.]

and of the Vissotcha-Réka, and is divided into three distinct parts:—

- (1.) From point 365 (Plan 5) in the neighbourhood of the Stol, as far as the high road from Pirot to Sophia, the frontier follows the line indicated on Plan No. 6 and described in the Specifying Note-book, and terminates on the said high road at a point situated at 1326 metres from the "han" (inn) of the village of Géliousch (Ségousa), and at 5820 metres in a straight line from the confluence of the Soukova with the Nichava.
- (2.) From the high road from Pirot to Sophia the frontier takes its course towards a point on the summit of the Vidliç-Planina, following a straight line, from which it deviates only at the village of Paskachia or Miloïkovatz, which the Commission have decided to divide by keeping close to the stream which flows through it (see Specifying Note-book, and Plan No. 7).
- (3.) From the point on the summit of the Vidliç-Planina, the frontier takes its course towards point No. 1 (Plan No. 8) upon the ridge of the Kodja-Balkan (corresponding with Radotchina), following a straight line, from which it deviates in order to leave a few fields to the village of Slavina (see Specifying Note-book and Plan No. 8).

9. From point No. 1 (Plan 8) corresponding with Mount Radotchina in the Kodja-Balkan, the frontier follows to the north-west the ridge of the Balkans by Tchiprovat-Balkan and Stara-Planina, as far as the former frontier of the Principality of Servia, which the Commission have found on the ground near the summit Ivanova-Livada, situated at about 10 kilometres to the south-east of the Koula Smiliéva-Tchouka, mentioned in the Treaty (see Specifying Note-book, Protocol 16, and Plan No. 10).

10. From the height of Ivanova-Livada as far as the Danube, the territory of the Principality of Servia is defined by the former boundary.

11. The Commission declare that all the names of places on the frontier have been taken from the surveys signed by the Commissioners.

[Servian Boundary.]

Done at Belgrade, 19th August, 1879.

(L.S.) S. ANDERSON.
(L.S.) VON ALTEN.
(L.S.) BILIMEK.
(L.S.) G. AUBARET.
(L.S.) A. VELINI.
(L.S.) A. KAULBARS.
(L.S.) YAHYA.
(L.S.) M. JOVANOVITCH.

*Explanatory Note relating to an Error in the above Description of
the New Servian Boundary (Position of Mount Crni-Vrh).*

(Translation.)

Subsequently to the signing of the final document, entitled "A Descriptive Statement of the New Servian Boundary," it has been ascertained that owing to the direction of the Bulgaro-Turkish frontier (Macedonia), Mount Crni-Vrh was not the point of meeting of the three frontiers Servo-Turkish, Bulgaro-Servian, and Bulgaro-Turkish (Macedonia), as indicated in the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).^{*} This point of junction is situated on Mount Pataritza, at 4 kilometres to the south of the Crni-Vrh, and the spot is marked by Post No. 124 (see Specifying Note-book No. 3, and Sketches No. 21 and No. 1).

Consequently, the undersigned Commissioners for defining the boundaries of Servia declare that in the 6th section of the Boundary Act, instead of the words "as far as the Crni-Vrh," the following should be read: "as far as Mount Pataritza, situated at 4 kilometres to the south of the Crni-Vrh."

And at the beginning of the 7th section, in lieu of the words "from Mount Crni-Vrh on the summit of which," the words "from Mount Pataritza, on the summit of which," &c.

The undersigned do moreover declare that steps have been taken in order that this error might be corrected in the printed documents (Descriptive Statement and Specifying Note-books, No. 3 and No. 4), as well as in the sketches showing the work of the Commission.

^{*} See Articles II and XXXVI, pages 2768 and 2787.

[Servian Boundary.]

- The Commissioner for Great Britain,
S. ANDERSON, 22nd September, 1879.
- The Commissioner for Germany,
VON ALTEN, 8th March, 1880.
- The Commissioner for Austria-Hungary,
BILIMEK.
- The Commissioner for France,
G. AUBARET.
- The Commissioner for Italy,
A. VELINI, 19th March, 1880.
- The Commissioner for Russia,
A. KAULBARS, $\frac{23\text{rd February}}{6\text{th March}}$, 1880.
- The Commissioner for Servia,
M. JOVANOVITCH.
- The Commissioner for Turkey,
DJEVAD, 17th April, 1880.
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No. 552.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, Russia, and Turkey, appointed to define the New Frontier of Montenegro, as fixed by Art. XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). 30 April—8 September, 1879.**

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.†

PROTOCOL.

- No. 1. Election of President. Appointment of Protocolists. Method of Voting. Adoption of *Austrian* Staff Map. Mode of tracing Lines of Demarcation; Question to be solved on the ground. Distances to be measured as the crow flies. Bounds to be set only where indispensable. Labours of Commission to commence with the coast of *Lake Scutari* and the Territory situated between it and the sea. Itinerary of Commission. Security of Commission. *Plava* and *Gusinje* evacuated by Administrative Authorities and *Ottoman* Troops. *Ottoman* and *Montenegrin* Commissioners invited by President to solicit from their respective Governments an understanding upon the subject of the Official Surrender of *Plava* and *Gusinje*.
 Cettingé, 30th April, 1879.
- No. 2. Majority, not Unanimity, of Votes necessary on questions of

* The Commissioners were :—

Great Britain :	{ Captain M. T. Sale, R.E. Lieutenant Caillard, R.E. (Assistant).
Austria-Hungary :	{ Consul-General Lippich. Captain Sauerwald.
France :	{ Consul-General Count Colonna Ceccaldi. Afterwards Baron Estournelley de Constant, and M. de St. Quentin.
Germany :	Captain Testa.
Italy :	{ Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi. Afterwards Major Basetti.
Montenegro :	{ M. Simo Popović. M. Nico Matanovich.
Russia :	{ Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I. Afterwards Lieut.-Colonel Staff-Major Sollogoub.
Turkey :	{ Brigadier-General Veli Riza, Pasha. Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey. Adjutant-Major Sabri Bey. Afterwards Consul- General Danish Effendi. Pszenny Effendi.

† For the full text of these Protocols, in the French language, see "Parliamentary Paper," Turkey No. 2, 1880.

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

PROTOCOL.

Principle. *Austrian Staff Map* to be considered as fulfilling the Articles of the *Berlin Treaty*. Orders given for Security of Commission. Itinerary of Commission. Operations to commence in neighbourhood of *Scutari*. Cettingé, 1st May, 1879.

- No. 3. Discussion as to Point of Debarkation. Commission, after completing material Organization at *Scutari*, will land on East Coast of the Lake, between *Zogay* and first *Montenegrin* Port to north-west of that point. *Ottoman* and *Montenegrin* Governments desired to establish Postal Communication between the Commission and *Scutari*, and between the Commission and *Cettingé*. (Annex.) Letter to Governor-General at *Scutari*, and to Minister for Foreign Affairs at *Cettingé*, notifying Point of Debarkation and requesting measures to be taken for Security of Commission.

3rd May, 1879.

- No. 4. *Turkish* Commissioner asked by President to solicit from his Government the desired information respecting *Plava-Gusinje*. Identity of *Goritzza-Topal*. Discussion and Decision. Demarcation line of the New Frontier upon the western shore of the Lake of *Scutari*, to be carried to the point where is found on the *Austrian Map* the group of islands designated *Goritzza-Topal*. *Ottoman* Commissioner dissents. *Ottoman* Commissioners can take no part in the Delimitation of the Territory between the west shore of the Lake of *Scutari* and the sea, until they have received further instructions. Examination of exact situation of *Goritzza-Topal* group. (Annex.) Letter presented to Commission by Captain Sale respecting *Goritzza-Topal*. 8th May, 1879.

- No. 5. Reply of Governor-General at *Scutari* assuring the Security of Commission on the part of the *Ottoman* Government. Telegram from *Sublime Porte* to *Ottoman* Commissioner telling him to await further instructions. Decided that the work of Commission cannot be continued without the presence of the *Ottoman* Commissioners. Discussion as to prevention of similar delays in the future. Discussion of Frontier Line of *Goritzza-Topal* postponed. Sub-Commission charged with a project of Organization of Topographical Works. 10th May, 1879.

- No. 6. Sub-Commission, which will be composed of Baron Kaulbars, Captain Sale, Lieut.-Colonel Bedri Bey, or in default of him, Adjutant-Major Tabri Bey, and M. Nico Matanovich, will make the necessary sketch maps; Captain Sauerwald to make a general sketch map. Adoption by Commission of a point or boundary line, to be inscribed in a register. Discussion and motion as to preliminary reconnaissance by Colonel Kaulbars, Captain Sale, and Captain Sauerwald. *Ottoman* Commissioner votes against the Reconnaissance. Letter to Hussein Pasha, Governor-General at *Scutari*, asking for facilities for reconnaissance (Annex 1). Proposal of Sub-Commission respecting Cartographical requirements of Commission (Annex 2). 12th May, 1879.

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

PROTOCOL.

- No. 7. Reply of Hussein Pasha, placing a steamboat at disposal of Colonel Kaulbars and Captains Sale and Sauerwald for facilitating their excursion upon the lake (Annex). Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., presented to Commission as Assistant-Commissioner for *Great Britain*. Scutari, 13th May, 1879.
- No. 8. *Ottoman* Commissioner states that he has received no instructions respecting *Gusinje-Plava*. Question respecting that district to be put to the order of the day at next sitting. *Italian* Commissioner proposes to make a preliminary reconnaissance between the *Lake* of *Scutari* and *Podgoritza*. Reconnaissance decided upon. 19th May, 1879.
- No. 9. Lieutenant Kadouchkievich presented by Baron Kaulbars, whom he is to assist in topographical works. Discussion as to Commissioners soliciting instructions from their respective Governments with regard to the continuation of the Labours of Commission. Proposals of *Austrian* Commissioner respecting *Gusinje-Plava* (Annex 1), Discussion as to condition of that district. Note to Hussein Pasha and to Nazif Pasha asking for information. Project of compromise between the two interested parties. Discussion postponed. *British* Commissioner reads telegram from his Government respecting continuation of work between *Kalimed-Mesured* and the sea. Declaration by *Russian* Commissioner that Labours of Commission should continue even if the minority abstains from taking a part. Note by *Montenegrin* Commissioner showing the steps taken by his Government for the official surrender of districts ceded to *Montenegro* by *Berlin* Congress (Annex 2). Scutari, 21st May, 1879.
- No. 10. Suspension of Labours of Commission on account of opposition made by the military authority at *Tusi* to the entry by the Commission of the *Vranja* redoubts. *Russian* Commissioner relates the incident that occurred during the reconnaissance and which is the cause of the interruption, and proposes that Commission should formally protest against the fact. Explanation by *Ottoman* Commissioner. *French* Commissioner relates his conversation with the Governor-General. Sitting suspended while protest is drawn up. Declaration by *Ottoman* Commissioners. Discussion and rejection of Declaration. Telegram to be sent by each Commissioner to his Government, protesting against the opposition of the *Turkish* military authority, and declaring that the work cannot be continued unless satisfaction is given for what has occurred, and those responsible for it visited with proper censure. Protest put to the vote and carried, *Ottoman* Commissioner dissenting. Note by *Ottoman* Commissioner respecting *Goritza-Topal*. Discussion adjourned to a later sitting. Scutari, 24th May, 1879.
- No. 11. Condition of *Gusinje-Plava*. *Ottoman* Commissioner states that Hussein Pasha has no information to give, the district not being

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

PROTOCOL.

in the Vilayet of *Scutari*, and that the *Turkish* Government will communicate its decision on the subject. Proposal that the work of delimitation shall be suspended until the Commissioners know the result of their protest: approved. 26th May, 1879.

- No. 12. *French* Commissioner presents Baron d'Estournelles de Constant as Attaché to Commission. Commission permitted to enter fortifications as often as necessary. Discussion respecting continuation of labours. Proposal of *Italian* Commissioner as to making a temporary delimitation where the interested parties are not agreed. Modification by *Russian* Commissioner. Motion carried as to whether the work should be continued and the bounds definitely set according to the decisions of the majority. *Ottoman* Commissioner states that he could not accompany the Commission. Motion negatived as to whether Commission could proceed if one of the interested parties should refuse to take part in the work. *Russian* Commissioner's proposal that the bounds should be set according to decision of majority, and that the points upon which the Commissioners are not unanimous should be settled later on by Signatory Powers of *Berlin* Treaty; put to the vote; not adopted. Above-mentioned proposal of *Italian* Commissioner put to the vote. Errors in *Austrian* Staff Map. Topographical marks must not be displaced or destroyed. (Annex 1) Letter to President from *Ottoman* Commissioner respecting entry of fortifications by Commission. (Annex 2) Letter to *Ottoman* Commissioner from President acknowledging Annex 1.

Scutari, 1st July, 1879.

- No. 13. Baron d'Estournelles to assist in drawing up Protocols. *Ottoman* Commissioner requested by *Italian* Commissioner to furnish Commission with copies more complete and on a larger scale, of the tracings of frontier drawn up by *Ottoman* Government. Remarks as to identity of *Goritzza-Topal*. Safe conduct for six topographical officers attached to *Russian* Commission. Enquiry by Pszeny Effendi as to the mission of these officers. Commission will not deal with the question, which is quite foreign to it.

4th July, 1879.

- No. 14. Letters from *Turkish* and *Montenegrin* Commissioners (Annex 1 and 2) respecting offensive movements of troops near the disputed frontier between the *Lake of Scutari* and the Sea are read, with two telegrams (Annex 3) between M. Radonich and Hussein Pasha. Intervention of Commission asked for. Observations by *Ottoman* and *Montenegrin* Commissioners. Proposition by latter that *status quo* be maintained. *French* proposal to send delegates from Commission to arbitrate. Suspended for present. *British* proposition that orders be given forbidding any movement of troops beyond the advanced posts until *Krutzi* question is dealt with. Accepted unanimously. *Russian* proposal to invite the two

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

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Governments (*Ottoman* and *Montenegrin*) to maintain the *status quo* until the work of Commission is finished. Adopted by all but *Ottoman* Commissioner. *British* proposal that the authority at *Scutari* and the Government of the *Principality* be informed of the assurances and declarations made to the Commission by the *Ottoman* and *Montenegrin* Commissioners. Adopted.

7th July, 1879.

- No. 15. Danish Effendi presented as Delegate of *Sublime Porte*. Instructions received by *Montenegrin* Commissioners read. Motion by *French* Commissioner that, since one of the interested parties has withdrawn its demand for intervention in the incident of *Krutzi*, the Commission cannot carry out his (Count Ceccaldi's) proposal to settle the matter by arbitration; carried. Commission in reply to Danish Effendi refuses to give opinion in the *Krutzi* affair. *Ottoman* declaration reserving *Porte's* rights on the *Krutzi* line conformably with *Vir-Bazar* Convention.* *Ottoman* Commissioner states that he has received no instructions as to resuming the work; that *Pszenny Effendi* has been recalled to Constantinople; and that Danish Effendi has been appointed Secretary to the *Ottoman* Mission.

9th July, 1879.

- No. 16. Letter from *Ottoman* Commissioner (Annex) read, asking for speedy meeting of Commission. Declaration by *Ottoman* Commissioner that he has been ordered to accept the *Ottolenghi* proposition (Prot. 12). *British* amendment respecting boundary marks: where the interested parties are not agreed, a decision should be taken by a Majority of Votes, the frontier traced on the sketch-maps, and details of the boundary inserted in official act, but no boundary marks to be set up. Amendment adopted. *Ottolenghi* proposition modified by amendment, adopted. Declaration by *Russian* Commissioner that provisional part of frontier should be respected and considered inviolable, until the definite settlement by the Signatory Powers of *Berlin Treaty*. *Ottoman* declaration respecting evacuation of *Krutzi* and maintenance of *status quo* according to *Vir-Bazar* Convention.

21st July, 1879.

- No. 17. Letter from *Russian* Commissioner (Annex) read, respecting provisional boundary marks. Baron Kaulbars invites Commission to reconsider its decision respecting non-setting of boundary marks where frontier is disputed. Discussion. *Russian* motion rejected. Commission decide upon a reconnaissance upon the summit of the *Majoura*.

Veli Gorana. 25th July, 1879.

- No. 18. Work to commence from the reef of *Vieux Krutzi*. Discussion as to whether the *Merkovitz* of Art. XXVIII of *Berlin Treaty* is to

* This Convention was signed ^{January 21,} _{February 2,} 1879, and it had for its object the regulation of the movements of the *Montenegrin* troops near the proposed Frontier, pending the decision of the Delimitation Commission.

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

PROTOCOL.

be held to mean the tribe or the district of that name. Commission not agreed on the point. *Italian* motion that two different tracings of the frontier be made, and submitted to the Powers. Carried. *British* proposition to acquaint interested parties that Commission adopt the reef of *Vieux Krutzi* as the commencement on the *Adriatic* of the boundary line, and that consequently the village of *Vieux Krutzi* remains with *Turkey*. Accepted.

Veli Gorana, 26th July, 1879.

- No. 19. Frontier commencing at *Vieux Krutzi*. Commission accepts the two proposals drawn up by the *Russian* and *British* Commissioners respectively, and instructs them to make a tracing of the frontier in conformity with those proposals.

Veli Gorana, 27th July, 1879.

- No. 20. Dagues Effendi, Secretary to *Ottoman* Mission, presented. 1st *Montenegrin* Commissioner recalled for short time to *Cettingé*. M. Matanovich furnished with full powers. Sketch-maps of tracings made by *Russian* and *British* Commissioners submitted to Commission. *Austrian* Commissioner declares that he accedes to the line proposed by *British* Commissioner. (Prot. 19.) *British* Commissioner moves that Commission should give a decision upon the two tracings. Motion carried, but decision postponed until those Commissioners, who are awaiting instructions, shall have received them.

Scutari, 2nd August, 1879.

- No. 21. Tracings submitted in last sitting. That by *British* Commissioner (Annex 2) adopted. Discussion respecting frontier of the crest of the *Mraured*. *Russian* tracing adopted. Declaration by *Ottoman* Commissioner that he reserves his vote in favour of *British* tracing. Occupation of *Gorana*. *Turkish* troops on northern slope of *Mazura-Planina* ordered to withdraw. Commission desires that *status quo* may be obtained.

Scutari, 7th August, 1879.

- No. 22. *British* motion respecting acceptance of *Russian* tracing of frontier of crest of *Mraured*. Proposal that each tracing be separately put to the vote; adopted. Tracings treated accordingly. No decision taken. Identity of *Plavinitza*. Discussion; adjournment. Delimitation of district of *Gusinje-Plava*. *Ottoman* Commissioner expresses his willingness to proceed with it. *Montenegrin* Commissioner not prepared to state whether he will do so. *Austrian* proposition that demarcation of frontier in the direction of *Bosnia* and the *Herzegovina* should be proceeded with independently of delimitation of *Gusinje-Plava*; carried.

Scutari, 8th August, 1879.

- No. 23. Letter from *Albanian* League stating that demarcation of *Montenegro* cannot be effected without assent of *Albania*. Commission of opinion that each member of it should acquaint his Government with the incident. Security of Topographical Sub-Commission. Guarantees by *Turkey* and *Montenegro*. *British* proposi-

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tion that Sub-Commission should be instructed to establish the tracing of frontier from *Podgoritza* to *Kutzi Kraina*. Adopted.

Podgoritza, 22nd August, 1879.

- No. 24. Frontier line from eastern shore of *Lake of Scutari* to *Zem*. *Montenegrin* declaration and *French* propositions respecting. Discussion. Point at which boundary line will commence on eastern shore of *Lake of Scutari*. Mouth of *Patak Stanitza* settled upon. Frontier line on crest of *Vrany*, *Chipchanik*, and *Milesk Hills*. Motion. Decision. (Annex 1) Memorandum by *Montenegrin* Commission with regard to *Govedgi-Brod*. (Annex 2) Statement by *Russian* Commissioner respecting security of *Podgoritza*.

Podgoritza, 6th September, 1879.

- No. 25. *Ottoman* declaration respecting the *Plain of Podgoritza*, in reply to *Montenegrin* memorandum annexed to preceding Protocol. Discussion. Frontier line starting from *Vrany*. Discussion. Frontier between *Zem* and *Klementi*. Question as to possession of *Kucka-Kraina*. *Klementi* frontier starting from *Lake of Rikavaz*. Discussion. (Annex 1) Portion of *Vir-Bazar* Convention relating to evacuation of *Podgoritza* district. (Annex 2) Petition to Prince of *Montenegro* by population of *Koucis* praying that they may not be separated. (Annex 3) Statement by *Russian* Commissioner on subject of *Koucis*. Podgoritza, 7th September, 1879.

- No. 26. *Kucka-Kraina* tracing. Memorandum by *Ottoman* Delegation. (Annex 1.) *Montenegrin* note on same subject. (Annex 2.) Discussion. Limits of *Spitza*. Neutrality of bridge over the *Zem*. Captain Sale offers to see to reproduction of sketch maps. Offer accepted. Labours of Commission for present year brought to a close.

Podgoritza, 8th September, 1879.

[This Boundary Commission met again at Ragusa on the 10th May, 1880, and at Scutari on the 28th January, 1881, and finished its labours there on the 4th February, 1881 (No. 581). See also Protocol, 12 April, 1880 (No. 563). Protocol, 18 April, 1880 (No. 564); Protocol, 28 January, 1881 (No. 580); Protocol, 10 January, 1883 (No. 597); and Protocol, 21 December, 1884 (No. 605).]

[Bulgarian Boundaries.]

No. 553.—*A CT of the European Commission (Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey), defining—(1) the Danubian Frontier of Bulgaria; (2) the Frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey (Macedonia); and (3) the Frontier between Bulgaria and Servia, in accordance with Art. II of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Signed at Constantinople, 20th September, 1879.**

(Translation.)

THE Berlin Congress having stipulated by Art. II of the Treaty concluded on the ^{1st}/_{13th} July, 1878 (No. 530), that the boundaries of the new Principality of Bulgaria should be defined on the spot by a European Commission in which the Powers, parties to the Treaty, should be represented;

Their Majesties the German Emperor, and the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, the President of the French Republic, their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the King of Italy, the Emperor of All the Russias, and the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, have to that effect appointed as their Commissioners, namely:

His Majesty the German Emperor, Major Count Carl von Wedel, of the General Staff, Military Attaché to the German Embassy at Vienna;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, Colonel Baron Charles Christian Henry de Ripp, of the General Staff;

The President of the French Republic, Major Jules Victor Lemoyne, of the General Staff;

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Major-General Sir Edward Bruce Hamley;

His Majesty the King of Italy, Lieutenant-Colonel Balthasar Alexander Orero, of the General Staff;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, Colonel Andrew Bogolubow of the General Staff, Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the Emperor of Russia;

His Majesty the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, Major-General his Excellency Mahommed Tahir Pasha, of the General Staff;

* This Act was signed in French, and a version of it in that language is given in the "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 1282.

[Bulgarian Boundaries.]

Who, being duly furnished with their powers and instructions and having constituted themselves into a Commission,

Have defined under the following conditions such portions of the frontier of the Principality of Bulgaria as have not been already defined by Special Acts:—

I. *Danubian Frontier of Bulgaria.*

1. To the northward, between the old frontier of Servia and the frontier of the new Roumanian Province of the Dobroutscha, the frontier follows the thalweg of the Danube, such as it shall be recognized and defined, in the first place, by an understanding between the two interested States, and, subsequently, by periodical verifications.

*Thalweg of the Danube.**

2. The thalweg of the Danube is the continuous line of the deepest soundings, corresponding generally with the channel most suited to navigation down the river at the time when the waters are at their lowest ordinary ebb. In the case where the river is divided into two navigable branches, that of the two which, in the course of the axis of its own particular bed (*dans le cours de l'axe de son thalweg particulier*), shall present the less deep sounding, shall not be considered as the chief stream of the river.

Danube Rights over the Islands:

Nevertheless, in order not to interfere with previously established rights, all the islands situated to the right of the stream which, in the delimitation executed in virtue of the special Treaty of Adrianople, dated ^{2nd}/_{14th} September, 1829 (No. 145) respecting the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, have been allotted to those Principalities, shall remain as territories enclosed in Roumania; all those which, situated to the left of the stream, have been allotted to the provinces on the right bank of the Danube, shall become part of Bulgaria.

Danube. Names of Islands:

3. A statement herewith annexed gives the names of the islands assigned to the two parties interested in the aforesaid delimitation; it is in conformity with the indications of the

* See also Protocol No. 28, 16th August, 1879, No. 554, page 2916.

[Bulgarian Boundaries.]

map drawn up in 1830 to render the said operations intelligible, the original of which is in the keeping of the Sublime Porte.

Danube. Changes in the Thalweg.

4. The thalweg of the Danube being once acknowledged as stated in Articles 1 and 2, and with the restrictions enumerated in Article 2, will constitute the limit of sovereignty until the next succeeding verification, whatever changes the real thalweg might have undergone in the interval between two verifications.

Danube. Private Rights over Islands and Waters of the River.

5. As to the rights of property, of enjoyment, and of use on the part of individuals, parishes, or States over the islands and waters of the river, they shall be made the subject of a special Convention between the two Riverain States, without prejudice to the stipulations contained in Article LV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), which entrusts to the European Commission of the Danube, assisted by Delegates of the Riverain States, the framing of all regulations respecting the navigation, the police, and the supervision of the river from the Iron Gates down to Galatz.

This Convention shall define the principles upon which the ownership of alluvions and of such islands as may happen to be formed in the bed of the river shall rest in the future.

It shall enumerate the works in the bed or on the banks of the river which, being of a nature to cause a subsequent displacement of the thalweg, can only be executed with the mutual consent of the two Riverain States.

6. The Black Sea forms the eastern limit of Bulgaria.

II. *Frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey (Macedonia).*

7. From the Manchu, a point situated between Sivri-Tach and Cadir-Tepe, where the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia goes, in conformity with the Act of the 14th August last (No. 549), to meet the principal ridge of the Rhodope marked on the Austrian map as the limit of the old Sandjak of Sophia, the southern frontier of Bulgaria, taking at first a southerly direction follows across the principal range of the Rhodope mountains the well-defined watershed between the basins of Mesta-Karasu (Ropolnitza and Granitchar) on one side, and that of the Isker on the other, by Rouchkaia-Tchal and Nabant; off Kourdjalik it takes a westerly direction by

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Tchabirna and Demir-Kapüa (Demir-Kapou) as far as Kadinizta-Gora (nearly corresponding to the Kadimezar-Balkan of the Austrian map), where it makes a bend towards the south-west, and by Kodja-Koritzza-Gora it reaches the Ai-Gedik (summit of the mountain to the north of the pass of the same name).

There it turns again towards the west, and, following the watershed between the basins of the Rilska-Rieka and the Bistritzza-Rieka, tributaries of the Struma-Karasu, it meets on the spur of the Vodenica-Planina the summits of Merdjik-Tepe, Kadiitza, Markovascala, Tzarev-Vrh, Mousohra, Derezlitza, Kirelo and Fetir. It leaves to Bulgaria the monastery of Riloand, the villages of Pastra, Riloselo, and Istop; and to Turkey the villages of Bistritzä and Dobrava, and the town of Djouma.

At 2,300 metres to the south-east of Barakovo (Barakli), the frontier leaves the watershed to descend towards the Rilska-Rieka by the well marked ridge of the second spur to the east of Barakovo, at the foot of which it penetrates into the bed of a dried-up torrent which brings it to the river at 850 metres above the bridge of the high road. This line divides nearly equally the bulk of the territory of Barakovo left to Turkey on one side, and of Paraminovo (Paramin) left to Bulgaria on the other.

The frontier then descends the thalweg of the Rilska-Rieka as far as its confluence with the Struma, and turning to the north ascends again the course of the latter river as far as 600 metres from the said confluence. It then takes again a westerly direction in the ravine which separates the villages of Tekia (Jelesnica) belonging to Bulgaria, and of Boutchino (Bucinova) belonging to Turkey. By the head of this ravine it reaches two rocky hillocks, and over these the summit of Tchordak-Kamik; then it runs along the ridge of the Vlaïna, which goes round the basin of all the waters flowing into the Struma to the southward of Boutchino; this basin remains entirely to Turkey with the villages of Lisia, Drenovo, and Klissoura; on the other hand the territory of Froloch and Tcherveritza remains to Bulgaria.

Across the Gora-Ersekovitza and the Gora-Dirnberitza the frontier thus reaches the range of Golema-Planina on the summit of Sinianova-Tchouka (corresponding with the Gitka of

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the Austrian map). Upon this range, which divides the waters of the Jeleschnitza and those of the Sasa-Dere flowing into the Bregalnica, it meets successively the Gora-Planinatz, the scattered houses of Vitren, the Stervij-Vrh, the summits of Jivaja-Kobila, Stibanitza, Koutzoulinitza, Jdropanitza, Baltajnitza, and Rouene, leaving on the south the villages of Kosevitza, Mlashtitza, and Sasa to Turkey.

After reaching Rouene the frontier descends, always running in a general direction from south-east to north-west, towards the road from Kustendil to Egri-Palanka, by the line of the watershed between the Lepnitza on one side, and the Kriva-Rieka, a tributary of the Egri-Dere, on the other; it meets there the summits of Saka-Bachi, Bojderitza, and Batchevitza.

It intersects the above-named high road near the Karaoula of Dere-Bagdar situated in the defile 1247 of the Austrian map, turns more to the north, and following the line of heights, it goes over the summits of Mogiller, Sdrandchover, Tirnova, Soutzrana, leaving to Bulgaria the villages of Kamenitza, Guvechevo, Skakavitza, Ranitzi, Pekolnitza, Tcherven-Dol, Kopriva, Babecheno, and Tzerechnevo, and the whole basin of the Pokriva-Rieka with the villages of Jeravino, Golesh, and Karamanitza. The villages of Jedullo, Radolisko, Fourpatch, Medosh, Soursera, and Luki, situated to the west of the line, are left to Turkey.

Having reached the Babino-Poljana the line of demarcation goes over the summits of Goulemij-Vrh-Gora and Vilo-Kolo, leaving to Bulgaria the villages of Doganitza and Doukat, to Turkey those of Proliesie and Tzerverni-Grad, and thus reaches at 4 kilometres to the south of Crni-Vrh the Gora-Pataritza, where is the junction of the Bulgaro-Turkish, Turco-Servian and Servo-Bulgarian frontier, near the sources of the Souga-Loubata to the east and of the Orlitchka to the west.

8. The frontier between the Manchou and the Gora-Pataritza is marked out on a sketch on a scale of $\frac{1}{42,000}$ drawn up from the Russian maps and from surveys executed specially for the Commission by the English officers, which will be annexed to the present Act in order to be consulted in case of need as an explanatory document.*

The above-mentioned sketch contains, besides, the region

* These original sketches, in eight sheets, are preserved in the library of the Foreign Office. See Catalogue of Maps, "Turkey, 27B."

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situated between Tcham-Kourou and Manchou, and thus completes the sketch annexed to the Act of the 14th August (No. 549), respecting the boundary between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

III. *Frontier between Bulgaria and Servia.**

9. From the Gora-Pataritza, where is the junction of the Bulgaro-Turkish, Turco-Servian, and Servo-Bulgarian frontier,† as far as the Crni-Vrh, the frontier of Bulgaria is identical with the line of watershed, going over the summits of Sessna-Kobila and Koroudjak; it has been traced on the spot by the International Commission appointed to define the boundaries of Servia, and including, with the delegates of the Seven Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin, the representative of the Government of the Principality of Servia. This line has been erroneously considered by the said Commission as a part of the frontier between Servia and Turkey.

10. From the Crni-Vrh to the point where it rejoins the old eastern boundary of the Principality of Servia, the frontier has also been drawn up on the spot by the Servian Boundary Commission, and described by them in the following terms:—

“(No. 1) on the summit of the Crni-Vrh, the point where the Servo-Turkish, Servo-Bulgarian, and Bulgaro-Turkish (Macedonia) frontiers meet.‡

“From that point the Servo-Bulgarian frontier runs along the ridges over the exact line of the watershed, taking generally a northerly direction, crossing the heights of Modrika (No. 2), of Bessna-Kobila (Nos. 12, 13, and 15, and known by three upright rocks forming natural landmarks), of Pashina-Livada (No. 39), of Prossenik (No. 57), and of Golemo-Ravnishte (No. 66). It passes also over the hillocks Vlassinski-Kamen (No. 22, stony), Ougrinov-Kamen (No. 32, stony), and Metchid (No. 72, stony, natural landmark). It leaves to Servia the villages of Kriva-Veia, Kravarnik, Novo-Selo, and Ravna-Reka, and to Bulgaria those of Moussoulj and Rjana.

“From No. 72 the frontier still following the watershed descends into the hollow (No. 74), and ascends the heights of

* See Act, 19th August, 1879 (No. 551), page 2886; and note to Protocols (No. 550), page 2883.

† See explanatory note to Act of 19th August, 1879 (No. 551), page 2888.

‡ See note, page 2888.

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Vrshnik (No. 76), and Golema-Tchouka (No. 83). Thence it runs along the ridge, leaving to the left Mount Streser (which is not on the watershed). From the point (No. 89) it turns to the right, in order to descend the slopes as far as the hillock Vilo-Kolo (No. 100).

“It has not been possible to define on the ground the Mesid-Planina of the Treaty.

“From Vilo-Kolo the frontier follows generally a north-easterly direction along the watershed, leaving to the right Mount Medjol, Mount Golemi-Vrh, and Mount Liave-Boukve, in order to cross over the Debeli-Rid (No. 112), the Belo-Kamenie (a stony hillock, No. 133), and the Pandjin-Grob, a prominent height, from the top of which the marshes of the Vlassina-Reka-Blato (No. 144) are first seen. The village of Vrla-Reka is left to Servia, that of Stamülüska-Mahala to Bulgaria.

“From the Pandjin-Grob the frontier runs along the ridges by Mount Pleshevats and Mount Stoudentz, it then follows the fields of Douga-Poliana and Tishina Poliana, crossing an old abandoned mine between landmarks Nos. 182 and 184 and Mount Miliin Rid (No. 191), and Mount Bukova-Glava (No. 204). On the left lies the marsh of the Vlassina-Reka (Bleto), and the villages of Savinats, Skela, and Vlassina.

“In order to go round a part of the latter village, which is cut in two by the watershed, the frontier, on coming to another abandoned mine (No. 214), turns to the right and runs along the first brook as far as No. 224, near an old mill, Dvorishta-Vodenitza. It then ascends near another small ravine in order to join the watershed at No. 231, situated near a wood and on the road.

“The frontier proceeds along the watershed over an undulating piece of ground, generally called Saraïia-Plateau, passing by the stony hillock Mrdaritza (No. 256) as far as the foot of the mountain opposite to Mount Plana, towards No. 271. It ascends the slopes of this mountain, leaving the summit thereof to Servia, and turns towards the right (No. 278), in order to cross the heights of Mount Gramada. It has not been possible to determine the exact position of Mount Gacina, Crna-Trava, Darkovska, and Drainica.

“From the landmark No. 278 the frontier takes a general direction towards the north-east, and from the landmark No. 287, the triangulation point of the Russian survey, named

Tourutsko-Kolibishte, it begins to descend following the watershed towards a deep hollow, in which lies the village of Preslap. In order to arrive there the frontier forms an acute angle at Mount Grosnattovsko Plandishte (No. 297), and crosses a stony hillock (No. 301), and another similar one covered with wood, Rajshtev-Saj (No. 308).

"Having reached the hollow of Preslap (Landmark No. 1), the frontier ascends the heights of Stamenov-Grob (No. 9) over some rather steep slopes, at the top of which is a piece of ground covered with brambles, and it runs along those ridges, crossing the Roudinski-Rid (No. 17), the Karadjerv-Kamen (No. 26, a high rocky peak), and the Peshtchana-Thouka (No. 28, which resembles No. 26).

"On the right there still lies the valley of the Golema-Reka, and on the left the valleys are generally deep and thickly wooded.

"From the landmark No. 28 the frontier line turns to the right, taking a general direction towards the north, and then descends the hollow, near the village of Ranilug (which is left to Bulgaria); it crosses the road which runs to that village, ascends the great rock of Zdravtchi-Kamen (No. 37), and then runs along the steep ridges of Mount Pipel and the Shterbi-Kamen, attaining the height of Preseka (No. 44). Hence it descends over the low undulating ridges, reaching Daschani-Kladenatz, where three cottages are to be found, two of which are left to Bulgaria and one to Servia.

"The frontier line, keeping strictly to the watershed, then continues along the same heights, which are for the most part thickly wooded, going over the Rakitski-Rid, Mount Dasbine, the Prosetcheni-Kamen, Mount Batcheovdeo (No. 108), the Tsrvena-Yabouka-Kamen (Nos. 123 and 124, a rocky hillock, with very steep slopes towards the south), the Tsrni-Vrh (No. 141), as far as the Mali-Tsrni-Vrh (No. 156).

"From this height the frontier turns to the right, and descends the spur between the rivers Bissazi and Prosetcheni to reach the hollow near the village of Preseka (No. 198).

"From No. 198 the frontier runs along a road as far as No. 201, which lies near the source of the first little stream that flows towards the right of the hollow of Preseka. It follows this stream, keeping very near to it, as far as No. 204, where it begins to ascend another small ravine, the head of

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which is at No. 206. By this tracing one portion of the village of Preseka remains to Servia, and the other to Bulgaria.

"From No. 206 the frontier again follows the watershed, going over Mount Kilka (No. 246), Golema Glava (a rocky height, No. 259), Mount Vrtop (No. 294), up to the summit of Mount Regnosa (a very rocky and steep mountain). From Golema Glava the road is exceedingly rough and stony; to the right of the ridges lies a deep valley, in which is situated the village of Kossovrano; to the left near Regnosa several natural excavations are to be found among the rocks.

"The frontier line runs along the ridges of Mount Regnosa as far as No. 347. Thence it turns to the right to descend a hollow that forms an extensive meadow (No. 365, Raichinitza), leaving to Servia all the Stol. From there it ascends again over the height of Toumba (No. 369), and runs along the undulating ridges towards the village of Tserevdol. From the hollow (No. 365) the general direction of the frontier is towards the east.

"Having reached the hollow near Tserevdol (No. 416), a village which remains to Servia, the frontier line ascends the rocky heights above Tserevdol (Nos. 92, 89). Thence it goes over the heights, No. 86, Drezna (No. 81), Mrasnitza, Berendel (No. 76), and Gradiste-Kamen (No. 67), leaving to Bulgaria the village of Vlasi, and to Servia that of Borovichi. From the height of Gradiste-Kamen, the frontier is drawn in a straight line to the rocky height of Drajana-Vrh (No. 63), and from there it turns to the right, in order to cross the Pisan-Kamen (No. 60). Then it runs along the ridge of a spur to reach the Soukovska-Reka, which it crosses at 660 metres (measured in a straight line) below the mouth of the brook of Derguia-Gornia.

"The frontier crosses the river Soukovska almost perpendicularly to the stream, and is marked by a tree on the right bank (No. 45). Thence it ascends the opposite height as far as the hillock Berovitza (No. 37) which rises near the road from Pirot to Trn. The magnetic direction between the landmarks No. 45 and No. 37 is, as near as possible, 87°.

"From No. 37 the frontier reaches the road, and follows it (swerving a little from it between Nos. 35 and 32) as far as No. 27. The road remains to Servia. No. 27 is placed over a small hollow, at the head of a wooded valley; a cross is erected

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at a distance of about 250 metres, towards which the magnetic angle is $234^{\circ} 30'$. This cross remains to Bulgaria. From No. 27 the frontier crosses the road, and goes round the village of Planinitza, which it leaves to Servia, abandoning for that purpose the watershed as far as No. 21. Thence it follows this natural line, crossing the prominent and stony height of Kostresh (No. 14), and descending along the spur, which brings it near Goindol, which remains to Bulgaria. The village of Tcherendol is left to Servia. From No. 6, situated near the village of Goindol, the frontier turns a little to the left, in order to reach the road from Pirot to Sophia (No. 1). The magnetic angle between No. 5 and No. 1 is, as near as possible, $86^{\circ} 30'$.

"No. 1 upon the road from Pirot to Sophia, where the frontier crosses it, is situated at a distance of 1326 metres measured from the Han-Segusa (Jeloucha) on the road itself, and at 510 metres (measured in a straight line) from the place where the road is intersected by the brook of Segusa.

"From that place the frontier is drawn in a straight line, towards a point a little to the left of the height (No. 47) on the Vidlic-Planina which is the most elevated, and which rises between the village of Rjana and that of Slavina. The magnetic direction of that line is as near as possible 39° , it leaves to Servia the villages of Tchiniglovtsi and Obrenovi, and to Bulgaria those of Peterlasch and Odorovtsi. As the straight line crosses the village of Peskaskia-Milkovatz, the frontier swerves from that line between the landmarks No. 14 and No. 15, following the thalweg of a small stream, and of a dry valley which forms the continuation of it.

"From No. 47, the frontier follows a straight line at the point taken for Mount Radocina (No. 1), 1,500 metres to the north-west of the summit of Mount Srbrena upon the ridge of the Kodja-Balkans, and marked, naturally, by a small tumulus. This spot is also defined by magnetic notes as follows: at the summit of Kamara, 95° ; at the summit of Srbrena, $120^{\circ} 30'$; at the Crni-Vrh, 192° ; at the Yousoupoff-Kumen, 242° ; at Tri-Chuki, $323^{\circ} 30'$. This line crosses Mount Skrivena, and leaves to Bulgaria the villages of Slavina, Braikovtsi, Kamenitza, and Senokos, and to Servia those of Rjana and Rosso-match, its magnetic direction being about 70° . The frontier deviates from this line near Slavina. Having reached the ridges of the Vidlic's rocks (No. 51), it makes a bend to the

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left to cross the Vissotcha-Reka at No. 53, it ascends again the opposite slopes, going round most of the fields belonging to the village of Slavina by a line distant from 300 to 350 metres above the road to Pirost, up to a small cultivated hillock (No. 58).

"Having reached the tumulus taken for Mount Radocina, the frontier makes a bend to the left, and follows strictly the watershed over the ridges of the Kodja and Ciprovec-Balkans, crossing Mounts Mala-Poliana, Dobrooutvo, Slop, Souvitchnitsa, Vrto, Dabishin, Tri-Kladentsa, Tri-Tchouka, Vraja-Glava, Olovish, Golema-Tchouka, Martinova-Tchouka, Valouje, Midjor, Kozia - Gorvina, Medjova, Sini - Vrh, and Debeli - Ert. The general direction of this line is north-west.

"From there, the frontier following very nearly the same direction, follows the watershed across the St. Nicholas' Pass, intersecting all the redoubts which are on the heights to the north and to the south of the pass, but making a very slight deviation to go round a Servian tomb near the road, which (tomb) is left to Servia (No. 30). The frontier then runs along the ridges, crossing Mount Elga and Mount Golash to reach the watershed at the landmark No. 62, Joanova-Livada, where it meets the old frontier. This spot (No. 62) is very nearly 10 kilometres from Koula-Smiljevo-Chuka."

11. From the point settled upon by the International Commission for defining the boundaries of Servia, upon the Joanova-Livada at about 10 kilometres from the Koula-Smiljevo-Chuka (landmark No. 62), the frontier between Bulgaria and Servia is identical with the old eastern limit of the Principality of Servia; by the Balkans and the Timok, it rejoins the thalweg of the Danube at the place where the Timok flows into that river, near Rakovitz.

12. It shall be the business of the interested parties to take by mutual agreement such steps as they may deem useful to establish landmarks on the various frontiers, in conformity with the tracing adopted by the Commission.

Rights of Pasture and of cutting Wood in Frontier Forests.

13. It shall also be their business to regulate directly, or after a mutual understanding, in order to maintain them or to commute them into equivalent compensations, the rights of pasture and of cutting wood which certain frontier parishes

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may possess in virtue of deeds, possession, or prescription, over territories ascribed by the present Act to a neighbouring principality or province.

Customs Laws and Regulations.

Moreover, such arrangements shall be introduced into future Customs laws and regulations, as shall protect the material interests of the frontier populations.

Property Rights of Individuals over Real Estates.

In conformity with the precise stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), the rights of property of individuals over real estate situated in any State, principality, or province, other than that in which they reside, remain unimpaired.

14. The present Act, comprising fourteen Articles, and drawn up with the annexed sketch described in Art. 8, in seven identic copies, one for each Power represented on the Boundary Commission, has been signed by all the Commissioners in virtue of their powers and instructions.*

It shall immediately be submitted to the Governments of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey for their approval, by their respective Commissioners, and shall afterwards be made known to the parties interested to be executed by them.†

Done at Constantinople, 20th September, 1879:—

(L.S.) E. B. HAMLEY.

(L.S.) VON WEDEL.

(L.S.) VON RIPP.

(L.S.) J. V. LEMOYNE.

(L.S.) B. ORERO.

(L.S.) A. BOGOLUBOW.

(L.S.) M. TAHIR.

ANNEX.—European Commission for the Delimitation of Bulgaria.

A list of the islands recognized as belonging to the Ottoman Provinces situated on the right bank of the Danube, and to the

* These original sketches, in eight sheets, are preserved in the library of the Foreign Office. See Catalogue of Maps, "Turkey 27B."

† See notes recording approval of the Treaty Powers, August--September, 1880 (No. 577).

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Principality of Wallachia, by the Protocol of the Commission appointed to define, in conformity with the Treaty of Adrianople, the frontier of the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia by the stream of the river.

(Extract.)

I.—*To the Ottoman Provinces situated on the Right Bank of the River.*

8. The two islands of Salatoria.
9. The islet of Kotova.
10. The island of Sitchan.
11. The islet of Thifte, No. 1.
12. „ „ No. 2.
13. Little Iscombria island.
14. Great „ „
15. The islet of Petrichte, with two other islets of the same name.
16. The island of Mourtaza.
17. „ „ Ebich Aga.
18. The islet of Kutchuk Ada.
19. The islet of Bogoti.
20. The islet of Isoun Ibrahim.
21. Kodoslui island.
22. Salanorsa „
23. Papadia „
24. Somoritza „
25. The islet of Taouchan
26. The island of Baktché.
27. Férikoum island.
28. Magaritcha.
29. Béléna or Beskout.
30. Tchenghéné.
31. The island of Sistow.
32. „ Vardim.
33. „ Kobanek.
34. „ Bourgos.
35. „ Goulla.
36. „ Maratin.
37. „ Hisarlik.
38. The islet of Bikirli, No. 1.

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39. The islet of Bikirli, No. 2.
40. " " No. 3.
41. " " No. 4.
42. The island of Lahana Dorogou, No. 1.
43. " " " No. 2.
44. " Kassou.
45. " Alepné.
46. " Kargalik.
47. " Kavan.
48. " Ridvan.

II.—*To the Principality of Wallachia.*

8. The island of Ghirlo.
9. " Tchetate.
10. Kochava island (with an islet without a name).
11. Golia "
12. Kalafata " (with two islets without names).
13. Kinap "
14. Ak Kalé "
15. Lom "
16. The island of Linova.
17. " Aliman.
18. " Kopantcha.
19. The islet of Draktehni.
20. The island of Kom or Pentégál.
21. (Without name.)
22. The two Bechlikeuy islets.
23. The island of Chélei or Iskra.
24. " Islaz.
25. " Mahalé Komou.
26. " Kourté.
27. " Paul (Paolo Adasi).
28. " Bourdgina.
29. " Louta.
30. The islet of Dehli Mustafa.
31. The island of Ostrov Mare.
32. " Batoun.
33. " Iéni Kama.
34. " Geourgea, No. 1.
35. " " No. 2.
36. " Mokan Oulouh.

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- 37. The island of Dalain Dorogou.
- 38. " Flamounda.
- 39. " Güzel Dgéléré.
- 40. The islet of Kanli Bogas Adasi.
- 41. The island of Tourtoukai.
- 42. " Vitrène or Parlipou.
- 43. " Hissarli or Kieulou Ghiumrouk (Ostro v.
 de Sousse).

E. B. HAMLEY.
VON WEDEL.
VON RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

No. 554.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, appointed to define the following boundaries in accordance with Article II of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530):—(1) the Frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia; (2) the Danubian Frontier of Bulgaria; (3) the Frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey (Macedonia); and (4) the Frontier between Bulgaria and Servia. 18th April—24th September, 1879.**

[For Protocols Nos. 1—13, October 21 to December 17, 1878, see No. 538.]

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.†

PROTOCOL.

No. 14. *Italian* Commissioner presents his Assistant, Captain Vicino-Pallavicino, who is to be attached to the Secretariat. *Russian* Commissioner presents Captain Schneur in the place of Captain Soubotitch. Proposal to address letter of condolence to widow of Colonel Home; adopted unanimously. General Hamley produces his commission and presents his Assistant, Captain Jones. Count Wedel presents his letter of nomination as Com-

* The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain :	Major-General E. B. Hamley. Major Ardagh, R.E. Captain Jones.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Colonel Baron de Ripp. Captain Podstawski.
„ France :	Commandant Lemoyne. Captain Marmier.
„ Germany :	Major Count Wedel.
„ Italy :	Lieutenant-Colonel Orero. Captain Vicino-Pallavicino.
„ Russia :	Colonel Bogobulow. Captain Schneur.
„ Turkey :	General Tahir Pasha. Simon Effendi (Papasian). Commandant Hassan Bey. Major Chefket Bey. Captain Cherafetin Effendi. Captain Mehmet Bey. Major Tewfik Bey.

† For the full text of these Protocols, in the French language, see “Parliamentary Paper,” Turkey, No. 2, 1880.

[Bulgarian Boundaries.]

PROTOCOL.

missioner for *Germany*. *Russian* Commissioner announces that his powers have been modified by instructions to abstain from voting in all questions of principle where there should not be unanimity of opinion. *Austrian* proposal adopted that Commission should discuss the general tracing of the frontier before going upon the ground. Vote of thanks to Secretariat for work done during interval since last meeting. Discussion as to election of President. *French* proposal of *Turkish* Commissioner for the position. *Russian* objection. *Austrian* proposal that *Turkish* Commissioner should keep the Presidency until departure of Commissioner for the *Balkans*, when a fresh election should be made. *Italian* and *French* observations. Voting. *French* Commissioner elected President. *Russian* Commissioner presents drawings executed in the *Balkans* by *Russian* topographers, and gives explanations of *Russian* map. *British* and *Turkish* announcements that five topographical officers have been placed at disposal of Commission by each of the two Governments. Facilities for *English* and *Turkish* topographers. Order of the day for next sitting; delimitation of *Servo-Bulgarian* frontier and general study of *Balkan* frontier. *British* demand that question of setting bounds should be discussed. Commission decide to hold to decision arrived at in Protocol 2.

Constantinople, 18th April, 1879.

- No. 15. Question as to duration of Presidency of *French* Commissioner. Decision that Presidency will continue throughout the labours of Commission. Facilities and protection to be accorded to Commission when on the ground. Discussion of question of delimitation of *Servo-Bulgarian* frontier. Discussion as to general principles to be observed in tracing the frontier-line of the *Balkans*. Sultan to have a defensible frontier.

Constantinople, 21st April, 1879.

- No. 16. Discussion as to whether the principle of giving the Sultan a defensible frontier should apply to the whole extent of the *Balkans*, or only to the portion from *Demir-Kapu* to *Kosica*. Question to be referred to respective Governments. *Turkish* Commissioner proposes that frontier from *Demir-Kapu* and *Kosica* should include a continuous zone of variable width beyond the crest of the principal chain. *Russian* Commissioner considers that extent of zones should not exceed the range of rifle-fire. *Turkish* proposal negatived, and Commissioner allowed to refer the question to his Government. Commission agree to first fix that portion of boundary lying within *Sandjak* of *Sofia*. *British* surveying party to proceed thither as soon as possible.

Constantinople, 23rd April, 1879.

- No. 17. *Turkish* Commissioner reconsiders his proposal of adding a continuous zone beyond crest of frontier. Proposition read to the effect that by "la chaîne principle" is to be understood

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PROTOCOL.

"la ligne de partage des eaux"; and that, as regards the part of the frontier between *Demir-Kapu* and *Kosica*, if the line of water-parting is not sufficient for the defence of *Eastern Roumelia* it will be modified by the Commission where deemed necessary. *Austrian, German, Italian, Turkish, and British* Commissioners agree. *Russian* objection. Question of Principle. Question of rayon of defence adjourned. Officers who are to survey frontier zone between *Volina-Mogila* and *Cadir-Tépé* are to set out as soon as preparations are made. *Russian* Commissioner states that measures have been taken for their safety.

Constantinople, 26th April, 1879.

- No. 18. Discussion respecting defence of passes. *Russian* Commissioner ready to accept General Hamley's proposition that the limit to be assigned to the *rayons* of defence is a matter of detail, not of principle, if the Commissioners agree to substitute for the words "within the limits strictly necessary for defence," the words "within the range of rifle-fire." Commissioners cannot agree. Discussion as to defence of *Tvardica*, *Haïn-Boghaz*, and *Travna Passes*. *Russian* Commissioner proposes to neutralise *Shipka Pass* Cemetery. *British* and *Turkish* Commissioners ready to agree if position occupied by cemetery is not indispensable for defensive purposes.

Constantinople, 28th April, 1879.

- No. 19. *Russian* Commissioner presents slight modification of General Hamley's proposal respecting *rayons* of defence. Adopted by Commission. Discussion respecting tracing of frontier between *Demir-Kapu* and *Aïdos-Bredza*. Question as to whether *Bulgaria* should be bounded on the north by the right bank of the *Danube*, or by the thalweg of that river, to be referred to respective Governments. *British* proposition that since the principal questions respecting the delimitation have been settled by unanimity, in future the vote of the majority will decide discussions. Adopted. *Italian* declaration that decisions of majority should be binding not only on Commissioners but also on their Governments. Date of departure for *Balkans* fixed for 12th May. Question as to whether it is necessary for Commission to go over the whole frontier or only where the points are contested, adjourned.

Constantinople, 1st May, 1879.

- No. 20. Itinerary of Commission fixed. Commission adopt following decisions. "For the portions of the frontier between the *Karhabad-Balkan* and the *Black Sea*, as also between *Cadir-Tépé* and the *Servian* frontier, the ground will be surveyed by delegates of the Commission." "The Commission after having received the reports of the delegates will decide as to settlement of frontier."

Constantinople, 3rd May, 1879.

- No. 21. Non-completion of maps by *Russian* topographers. *Russian* Commissioner states that delay is owing to hindrances offered by *Turkish* populations and outposts. Discussion. Consideration

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of fifth paragraph of Article II of *Berlin Treaty*. Discussion as to ancient frontier of *Sandjak of Sofia*. Commission decide to take as boundary line the natural topographical line which approaches nearest to the line marked on *Austrian* map as the limit of the *Sandjak of Sofia*. President requests *Russian* Commissioner to give directions for completion of sketch-map of the chain between *Mesta-Karasu* and *Struma-Karasu*. *Russian* Commissioner fears that the work cannot be accelerated.

Therapia, 24th July, 1879.

- No. 22. *British* Commissioner proposes, in consequence of non-completion of maps by *Russian* topographers, to place four *English* officers at disposal of Commission to carry out the work. *Russian* objections. *British* proposal agreed to. *Turkish* Commissioner suggests that *Turkish* officers be associated with the *British* officers. Cherafetin Effendi chosen. Discussion relative to northern frontier of *Bulgaria*. *Compte-rendus* read of labours of Commission from May 13 to June 22.

Therapia, 26th July, 1879.

- No. 23. *Russian* Commissioner unable to make any communication respecting *Silistria*. Opposition offered to *Russian* topographers by *Caimacam* of *Tsarevovels*. *Turkish* Commissioner will take steps for the issue of more explicit orders. *English* topographers have set out for confines of *Macedonia*. Discussion respecting northern frontier of *Bulgaria*. Commission decide unanimously to take for the northern frontier of *Bulgaria* the thalweg instead of the right bank of the *Danube*. Tracing fixed of the frontier between the *Cadir-Tépé* and the *Black Sea*.

Therapia, 29th July, 1879.

- No. 24. Discussion relative to frontier between *Bulgaria* and *Macedonia*. *Austrian* tracing accepted. Question of the military road south of the *Sandjak of Sofia*. *Russian* Commissioner refuses to take part in discussion, on the ground that the subject formed no part of the *Berlin Treaty*. Also refuses to refer matter to his Government. Question postponed for a week.

Therapia, 2nd August, 1879.

- No. 25. Discussion respecting various Articles of the Diplomatic Act. Demarcation line from the *Black Sea* to the *Cadir-Tépé*. Distances measured by straight lines and horizontal projection. *Ottoman* Government not to raise fortifications upon *Eastern Roumelian* territory within a radius of ten kilom. from *Samakov*. Free access to road through *Shipka Pass* Cemeteries. Measures to be taken for establishment of boundary marks. Proposed Article respecting rights of pastures, customs regulations, and right to hold real property. *Turkish* objections, afterwards withdrawn.

Therapia, 5th August, 1879.

- No. 26. Questions respecting northern frontier of *Bulgaria* and the military road to the south of the *Sandjak of Sofia* to be settled

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before Final Act can be drawn up. *Russian* Commissioner desires that frontier in the neighbourhood of the *Shipka Pass* be traced on the plan on a scale of $\frac{1}{21000}$ instead of the usual scale of $\frac{1}{42000}$. Wish agreed to. Discussion and motion respecting fixing of *Danube* thalweg.

Therapia, 11th August, 1879.

- No. 27. Reading and signature of Act fixing the frontier between *Bulgaria* and *Eastern Roumelia* (No. 549). Signature of enlarged plan of frontier near *Shipka Pass*. Therapia, 14th August, 1879.

- No. 28. Question of military road to be conceded to *Turkey*. *Russian* Commissioner refuses to take part in any discussion, and states that his Government is negotiating with the other Cabinets. Discussion as to whether, in view of the unanimous decision arrived at in the first sitting of the Commission, that the vote of the minority cannot hinder the progress of the work, the *Russian* Commissioner can withdraw and so temporarily break up the Commission. *Russian* Commissioner states that he will give his vote as soon as he shall have received instructions from his Government. Question adjourned for a week. Discussion relative to northern frontier of *Bulgaria*. *French* Commissioner (President) submits an Article to the effect that by the term "thalweg" of the *Danube* should be understood the channel used for navigation when the waters are at their lowest ordinary ebb; and, where the stream forms two navigable arms, that one of the two which offers the deepest soundings should be considered as containing the thalweg. *Russian* and *Italian* Commissioners think that the thalweg is, firstly, the line containing the deepest soundings, and secondly, the line containing the fastest circulation of water. *British* Commissioner considers it useless to give a definition of the thalweg. Article submitted by *French* Commissioner modified and adopted.*

Therapia, 16th August, 1879.

- No. 29. Sketch-maps by Major Ardagh submitted to Commission. *Russian* Commissioner gives information respecting *Russian* topographers. Act of Delimitation of *Servo-Bulgarian* frontier (Nos. 551, 553) communicated by President of *Servian* Commission. *Austrian* Commissioner asks whether the *Servian* or the *Bulgarian* Commissioner is to communicate to the *Bulgarian* Government the tracing of the frontier common to *Bulgaria* and *Servia*. *Russian* Commissioner asks that copies of the Act of 14th August (No. 549) with maps of the neighbourhood of the *Shipka Pass* may be forwarded to *Bulgaria* and *Eastern Roumelia*. President says that the *Suzerain* alone can receive and transmit to a tributary State the decisions of an International

* See also No. 553, page 2898.

[Bulgarian Boundaries.]

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Delimitation Commission. Matter to stand over. Discussion respecting *Danubian* frontier. Therapia, 21st August, 1879.

- No. 30.* Continued discussion of *Danubian* frontier. Military road to the south of the *Sandjak* of *Sofia*. *Russian* Commissioner states that he cannot yet discuss the question, and contests the right of the Commission to occupy itself with the subject of the military road. Discussion. All but the *Russian* Commissioner decide by vote that the question is within the competence of the Commission. *British* Commissioner requests *Turkish* Commissioner to state the route over which he claims a right of passage for *Ottoman* troops. *Russian* Commissioner declares that he ceases to assist at the sitting, and that he will not sign the Protocol. *British* Commissioner refuses to accept the reservation, and the discussion of the subject is resumed by the *Ottoman* Commissioner replying to the question put to him. All the Commission (excepting Colonel Rogolubow) agree as to military road, and *German* Commissioner proposes to defer coming to a decision, in order to avoid a refusal to sign by the *Russian* Commissioner. *Russian* Commissioner upon being asked if he will soon be able to furnish sketch-map of the neighbourhood of *Sinianova-Tchouka*, at first refuses to reply, on the ground that he no longer assists at the sitting, but eventually states that he has received no new communication.

Therapia, 28th August, 1879.

- No. 31. Written observations by *Russian* Commissioner respecting his refusal to discuss the military route question, and asking that all that relates to that subject may be excluded from Protocol 30. Discussion and acceptance by majority of proposal of *Italian* Commissioner to divide the Protocol into two parts. *Russian* Commissioner then signs that portion of the Protocol that relates to the proceedings of the Commission previous to his announcement that he ceased to assist at the sitting. *Russian* Commissioner presents maps sent to him by topographers. Discussion relative to the *Danubian* frontier of *Bulgaria*. Memorandum of *Russian* Commissioner respecting the military road for *Turkey*. Therapia, 9th September, 1879.

- No. 32. *Russian* Commissioner presents map of environs of *Sinianova-Tchouka*. Discussion continued relative to the *Danubian* frontier of *Bulgaria*, more particularly with regard to the islands in the *Danube*. Adoption of Articles relating to *Black Sea* and *Macedonian* frontier, the setting of boundary marks, &c. *Turkish* Commissioner points out that the Final Act will be

* This Protocol was not at first signed by the *Russian* Commissioner, but he ultimately agreed to sign the portion of it that related to the proceedings of the Commission previous to the declaration made by him to the effect that he ceased to assist at the sitting (*see* Protocol 31).

[Bulgarian Boundaries.]

PROTOCOL.

incomplete unless the settlement of the question of the military road be proceeded with. Therapia, 13th September, 1879.

- No. 33.* Renewal of the military route question by *Turkish* Commissioner, who asks that the Commission may proceed to vote upon the proposed route. Discussion and voting. *Turkish* proposal rejected. *Austrian* proposition that the military road question be decided by an official Act. *Turkish* Commissioner cannot enter into any formal engagement without the consent of his Government. Act fixing the portions of the frontier as follows, then signed by all except the *Turkish* Commissioner. (1) *Danubian* frontier of *Bulgaria*; (2) frontier between *Bulgaria* and *Turkey* (*Macedonia*); and (3) frontier between *Bulgaria* and *Servia* (No. 553). Upon the proposition of the President that Commission should continue the discussion of the military route question, the *Russian* Commissioner notifies that he ceases to assist at the sitting. Majority decide to pursue the debate in spite of the opposition of *Russian* Commissioner. *Turkish* proposition to the effect that the route to be used for military purposes should be the main road from *Tatar-Bazardjik*, by *Samakov*, *Kustendil*, and *Barakli*. Commissioners of *Austria*, *Great Britain* and *Turkey* only, vote; the others reserve their vote or abstain. *Turkish* Commissioner then proposes a new vote as soon as the *German* and *Italian* Commissioners shall be able to take part in it. *Turkish* Commissioner refuses to sign the Act of Delimitation until the question of the military route is settled.

Constantinople, 20th September, 1879.

- No. 34.† Renewal of military route questions. *Russian* Commissioner states that he can take no part. *Italian* Commissioner requests that the sitting be temporarily suspended in order that he may decipher a despatch from his Government which may determine his vote. *Turkish* Commissioner decides to sign Final Act. On the sitting being resumed the discussion is renewed but the voting is again adjourned. *Russian* Commissioner asked to deposit in the archives of the Commission the maps used in the delimitation proceedings. *British* Commissioner deposits maps drawn by *English* topographers.

Constantinople, 22nd September, 1879.

- No. 35.‡ Renewal of military route question. *Russian* Commissioner makes the same declaration of abstention as in previous sittings.

* The *Russian* Commissioner signed that portion only of this Protocol which related to the proceedings of the Commission previous to his notice of withdrawal.

† The *Russian* Commissioner signed that portion only of this Protocol which related to the proceedings respecting the boundary maps.

‡ The last part only of this Protocol was signed by the *Russian* Commissioner.

No. 554] GREAT BRITAIN, &c., AND TURKEY. [April-Sep., 1879.

[Bulgarian Boundaries.]

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Turkish proposition (*see* Protocol No. 32) agreed to by five votes, *French* Commissioner abstaining, and *Russian* Commissioner taking no part in the vote. Discussion. The use of the military road to be regulated by an understanding between the *Sublime Porte* and the Government of *Bulgaria*. Thanks to President and Secretariat and also to *Russian* Commissioner for maps and for the dispositions made by him to facilitate the movements of the Commission. Archives to be deposited in the *French* Embassy at *Constantinople*. Constantinople, 24th September, 1879.

No. 555.—PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES *between the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for defining the Southern and South-western Frontier of Eastern Roumelia under Art. XIV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). 21st April—25th October, 1879.**

[For Protocols Nos. 1—27, October 28 to December 9, 1878, see No. 537.]

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.†

PROTOCOL.

- No. 28. Duration of Presidency extended from a week to a fortnight. Work of Delimitation to be commenced on the *Black Sea*. Question of Escort to be settled between *Russia* and *Turkey*. *Russian* topographical maps to be shortly supplied to the Commission. Constantinople, 21st April, 1879.
- No. 29. *Turkish* Commissioner presents his two Assistants, Major Rifat Bey and Captain Seïfoullah. *Russian* Commissioner states that an escort will be provided consisting of *Russian* soldiers and *Bulgarian* militia. *Turkish* Commissioner declares that he cannot accept a mixed escort. *Russian* Commissioner points out that the *Bulgarians* will accompany the Commission less as a part of the escort than as regular witnesses, assisting in the work, and making known the results to the population. Question to be solved by a reference to *Ottoman* Government. *Russian* Commissioner states that he will receive the maps by the end of the week. Constantinople, 28th April, 1879.
- No. 30. *Turkish* Commissioner accepts escort as proposed by *Russian* Commissioner; it is understood, however, that the escort will be

* The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain: Major R. Gordon.

Captain de Wolski.

„ Austria: Captain Count de Wurmbrand.

„ France: Captain Nicolas.

„ Germany: Captain Krahmer.

„ Italy: Captain Tornaghi.

„ Russia: { Colonel Philippoff.
Lieut.-Colonel Coummereau.

„ Turkey: { Colonel Chakir Bey.
Major Rifat Bey
Captain Seïfoullah Effendi } Assistants.

† For the full text of these Protocols, in the French language, see 'Parliamentary Paper,' Turkey, No. 2, 1880.

PROTOCOL.

furnished by the *Russian Army* in the *Roumelian* territories forming part of the zone of occupation, and by the *Turkish Army* outside those territories. Commission decide that they cannot set out until it is certain that a *Russian* escort will be found at *Bourgas*. *Russian* Commissioner cannot state when the maps will be ready. Constantinople, 2nd May, 1879.

- No. 31. *Russian* Assistant Commissioner, Lieutenant-Colonel Coummereau, and *Turkish* Assistant Secretary, Onnik Effendi, presented to Commission. *Russian* Commissioner states that the escort has been sent to *Bourgas*, and that the maps will be ready by 10th May. Principle of taking decisions by majorities to be maintained. *French* proposal respecting general rules to guide the work of delimitation:—Topographical operations generally unnecessary where the Frontier is formed by a natural line (mountain crest, thalweg of river, &c.) ; where it is not formed by a natural line the Frontier is to be determined by a polygonal line uniting the points fixed upon by the Commissioners. *French* proposal accepted unanimously. Constantinople, 8th May, 1879.

- No. 32. *Russian* Commissioner states that owing to the death of the topographical officer charged with the execution of the work, the maps will not be ready until the 22nd May. Commission decide by six to one (*Russian* Commissioner) not to alter the date already fixed for their departure for *Bourgas*, viz., 12th May. *British* Commissioner proposes to set about the work immediately, with or without the maps, and adds that Lieutenant de Wolski shall make sketch-maps if necessary. 10th May, 1879.

- No. 33. Sub-Commission to be formed for the preliminary study of the Frontier, the tracing of which is to be executed in pencil, and examined at the sittings by the Commissioners.

Bourgas, 14th May, 1879.

- No. 34. Discussion respecting point of departure of Frontier line on the *Black Sea*, and the Frontier line from that point to the hamlet of *Kara-Toprak*. Near *Kara-Toprak*, 18th May, 1879.

- No. 35. *Russian* topographical officer (M. Paulozoff) presented to the Commission. Discussion and voting respecting the portion of the Frontier from *Kara-Toprak* to *Délir-Achou*. Decision by a majority of four to three that *Kara-Toprak* should remain to Turkey. *Délir-Achou*, 19th May, 1879.

- No. 36. Frontier line from *Délir-Achou* to *Mont-Vosna*. Discussion.

Karanlik, 24th May, 1879.

- No. 37. Frontier line from *Mont-Vosna* to *Kara-Evren*. *Russian* Commissioner states that the sketch-map of the ground between *Délir-Achou* and *Bélérin* has been sent by mistake to the *Bulgarian* Commission. The two *Russian* topographers with Lieutenant De Wolski to make a sketch map of the *Karanlik Valley*. *Russian* Commissioner announces his departure for a short visit to *Constantinople*, to take steps to assure the progress

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- of the work of the Commissioners in the *Rhodope* District.*
Lieut.-Colonel Coummereau to sit in the Commission in his place.
Kara-Evren, 26th May, 1879.
- No. 38. Sketch-map of the head of the *Karanlik* basin placed before Commission. Vote of thanks to topographers. Discussion and motion respecting the frontier-line from *Mont-Vosna* to *Kara-Evren*. Kara-Evren, 1st June, 1879.
- No. 39. Tracing of the frontier from *Kara-Evren* to *Bélérin*. *Ottoman* Commissioner announces that a *Turkish* squadron will be ready to escort the Commission when it shall have finished its work as far as the *Toundja*. Bélérin, 2nd June, 1879.
- No. 40. Text of Treaty of *Berlin* relating to the part of the frontier between *Bélérin* and *Buyuk-Derbend* read. *Russian* Commissioner states that he will furnish the Commission with a plan of the geodesic points of the *Rhodope* chain.
Buyuk-Derbend, 7th June, 1879.
- No. 41. Discussion respecting the fixing of the frontier from *Buyuk-Derbend* to *Dokolianka-Bair*. Hamza-Begli, 11th June, 1879.
- No. 42. *Russian* Commissioner (who has returned) places five topographical officers at disposal of Commission for making sketch-maps of the *Rhodope* chain; each officer to be accompanied by ten *Russian* soldiers. *Turkish* Commissioner objects to this escort, on the ground that the presence of armed *Russian* soldiers would lead to complications. *British* Commissioner proposes that Lieutenant De Wolski, Captain Seïfoullah, and a *Russian* officer should proceed to make drawings of the chain, working from west to east, and meeting the Commission, which will work from east to west. Proposition accepted.
Meseh, 20th June, 1879.
- No. 43. Frontier-line from the *Maritza* to the *Arda* fixed.
Adacali, 24th June, 1879.
- No. 44. *Turkish* Commissioner, in reply to *Russian* Commissioner, states that measures will be taken for the protection of the *Russian* topographical officers. Commission to return to *Constantinople* as soon as the operations in the *Rhodope* chain are completed, and then to trace the frontier definitively upon the minutes and sketch-maps made.
Hadji-Oghloulari, 23th June, 1879.
- No. 45. Tracing of the frontier line from the *Arda* to the line of water-parting between the *Arda* and the *Maritza* (*Kiz-Kaya*).
Dolaslar, 3rd July, 1879.
- No. 46. Tracing of frontier-line from *Kiz-Kaya* to *Mount Krushowa*.
Kustendjik, 8th July, 1879.
- No. 47. Tracing of frontier-line from *Mount Krushowa* to the point of junction with the *Bulgarian* frontier.
Abramowa, 16th July, 1879.

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- No. 48.** President states that Commission has finished its work on the ground, and all that remains is to draw up the Diplomatic Act and the map supporting it. Sketch-maps placed before the Commission. *Russian* Commissioner cannot state at what date the Commission will be furnished with drawings of those parts of the frontier of which maps have not yet been made.

Constantinople, 31st July, 1879.

- No. 49.** *Russian* Commissioner states that the maps of the frontier from the *Black Sea* to the *Toundja* will be ready in a few days, and that those for the frontier between the *Toundja* and the *Maritza*, and the drawings of the *Rhodope*, will be sent to *Constantinople* when finished. *British* Commissioner cannot understand the delay in the production of the maps, and must refer the matter to his Government. *Russian* explanation. Discussion.

Constantinople, 18th August, 1879.

- No. 50.** Discussion of part of the Diplomatic Act relating to the fixing of the frontier from the *Black Sea* to the *Toundja*. Article I and first part of Article II adopted unanimously.

Constantinople, 23rd September, 1879.

- No. 51.** *Russian* Commissioner places before the Commission the drawings of the frontier zone between the *Toundja* and the *Arda*, and states that the maps of the *Rhodope* are not finished, the topographical officers being on their way back to *Constantinople* on account of their escort having left them. Commission decides that the maps must be completed, and the *Turkish* Commissioner states that he will at once take the necessary steps for the attainment of that object. Enquiry to be made into the reasons which led the escort to retire before the completion of the work. Commission decide that it will not be necessary to use the geodesic drawing in preparing the map explanatory of the Diplomatic Act.

Constantinople, 24th September, 1879.

- No. 52.** Lieut-Col. Coummereau takes the place of Colonel Philippoff, who is ill. Secretary states that the gap existing in the sketch-maps to the west of *Demvihante* has not been satisfactorily filled up. *British* Commissioner offers to place Captain de Wolski at disposal of Commission in order to complete the map. Offer accepted, and *Turkish* Commissioner requested to give the necessary directions for facilities.

Constantinople, 27th September, 1879.

- No. 53.** Drawings necessary to making the map now complete. Result of enquiry shows that a misunderstanding was the cause of the departure of the escort from the topographical officers. *Russian* Commissioner states that the copies necessary for the completion of the map will be ready in eight or ten days. *Turkish* Commissioner puts the service of two draughtsmen at the disposal of the Secretariat.

Constantinople, 11th October, 1879.

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No. 54. Discussion and adoption of the second part of Article II of the Final Act. Constantinople, 18th October, 1879.

No. 55. Discussion and adoption of last part of Article II, and Articles III, IV, and V of Final Act.

Constantinople, 22nd October, 1879.

No. 56. Reading and signature of Final Act.* Thanks to Secretary and *Russian* topographers. Special mention of Captains de Wolski and Seifoullah. *Italian* Commissioner expresses to his *Russian* and *Ottoman* colleagues the thanks of the Commission for the measures taken by them to facilitate the work. Labours closed.

Constantinople, 25th October, 1879.

* For Final Act, dated 25th October, 1879, see No. 556.

No. 556.—*ACT of the European Commission (Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey), defining the Southern Boundary of Eastern Roumelia in accordance with Articles XIII and XIV of the Treaty of Berlin.* Signed at Constantinople, 25th October, 1879.†*

(Translation.)

IN pursuance of Article XIII of the Treaty concluded at Berlin on the 13th July, 1878 (**No. 530**), a Province enjoying administrative self-government, and placed directly under the political and military authority of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, having been created under the name of Eastern Roumelia, to the south of the Principality of Bulgaria;

And the Powers Parties to the said Treaty having agreed, upon the proposal of the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, to institute a European Commission having for its special object to define on the ground, in conformity with the indications of Article XIV of the Treaty, the southern frontier of the said Province between the Black Sea and the point where it meets the boundary of the Principality of Bulgaria;

Their Majesties the German Emperor, the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, the President of the French Republic, their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the King of Italy, the Emperor of All the Russias, and the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, having appointed as their Commissioners, namely:

His Majesty the German Emperor, Major Gustav Krahmer, of the General Staff;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, Captain Count Hugo von Wurmbbrand Stuppach, of the General Staff;

The President of the French Republic, Major Jules Victor Lemoyne, of the General Staff, who, in virtue of the powers conferred upon him, has deputed the Captain of Engineers, Léon

* This Commission sat from 28th October till 9th December, 1878 (**No. 537**), and again from 21st April till 25th October, 1879 (**No. 555**).

† This Act was signed in French, and a version of it in that language is given in the "State Papers," Vol. 70, page 1293.

Nicolas to represent him in the Commission, and to sign in his name any Act relating to the delimitation of the said boundary;

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Major Robert Gordon, of the General Staff;

His Majesty the King of Italy, Captain Dionigi Tornaghi, of the General Staff;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, Colonel Vladimir Philippoff, of the General Staff;

His Majesty the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, Lieutenant-Colonel Mehemed Chakir Bey, of the General Staff;

Who, after having exchanged their powers, constituted themselves into a Commission for defining the southern boundaries of Eastern Roumelia, at Constantinople, on the 28th October, 1878.

The said Commissioners of the seven Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, after having gone over the ground and surveyed the frontier line in its whole extent between the Black Sea and the point where it meets the Bulgarian frontier, declare the tracing defined in conformity with the description and under the following conditions:

1. The starting point of the frontier on the shore of the Black Sea is at the point where the thalweg of the ravine, the entrance to which is in Atlaman Bay, intersects the extremity of the beach. The bay in question forms the southern extremity of a sloping cut bounded on the north side by Cape Keupru-Bournou, on the south side by Cape Atlaman, and the northern part of which is edged by a marsh situated at the mouth of the Alan-Kairak-Dere or Djavola-Dere (Kara-Agatch-Sou), to the north of the Austrian map on a scale of $\frac{1}{300000}$.

The people both to the north and to the south of the frontier shall enjoy in common the use of the said bay, and shall be at liberty to ship and to land goods over the whole extent of the beach.

2. The frontier, leaving the sea-shore, ascends the thalweg of the above-mentioned ravine, in order to reach the place where the watershed between the Kara-Agatch-Sou on the south and the Alan-Kairak-Dere or Djavola-Dere on the north begins. From that point it follows without interruption, in a general direction from north-east to south-west, a natural line of watershed, which it only leaves after having reached the southern ex-

tremity of the ridge of Kizil-Bair, to the west of Hamza-Beylik, on the left bank of the Toundja.

The streams, the basins of which are situated to the north of that line are, going from east to west, the Alan-Kairak-Dere or Djavola-Dere; then the streams which flow into the Black Sea between the mouth of the Alan-Kairak-Dere and that of the Faki-Dere, the latter included; finally various small tributaries of the Toundja, flowing in a direction from south-east to north-west, and of which the chief are the Papaskeui-Dere and the rivers Kutchuk-Buyuk-Derbend.

Those, the basins of which are situated to the south, are, following the same order, the Kara-Agatch-Sou, which has its mouth in the Black Sea near Cape Kara-Agatch; the Karanlik-Dere, which under the name of Velika-Dere flows into the Black Sea near Cape San-Stefanos; then several tributaries of the Maritza and of the Toundja, flowing in a direction from north to south, and of which the chief are the Teke-Dere, the Has-Dere, and the Pravoda-Dere.

From its eastern extremity near the sea the above-defined line stretches towards the hamlet of Karatoprak, which remains to Turkey, passes to the north of Tchiflik-Moussakeui, which also remains to Turkey, and reaches the height of Grazni-Bair. Hence it turns and runs in a direction from north to south, passing to the east of the hamlet of Deli-Racho, which remains to Eastern Roumelia, and reaches the height of Hadjika-Bair. It then makes a bend towards the west, leaving to Turkey the village of Vjitzta, passes between the village of Kalova, which remains to Turkey, and the hamlet of Doudenova, which is left to Eastern Roumelia, and reaches successively the summits of Sveti-Ilia, Jouvak, and Vosna, leaving to Turkey the village of Konak, and to Eastern Roumelia the chapel of Sveti-Ilia, situated at the top of Mount Vosna. From that point the frontier, still running in a westerly direction, passes between the village of Ouroumkeui, which remains to Eastern Roumelia, and the village in ruins of Karanlik, which remains to Turkey, reaches at the height called Tchatal Tarla, to the eastward of a vineyard, which it crosses, following a path the direction of which is almost identical with the line of the watershed, and reaches the culminating point of the mountain of Ikichetchiler, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the village of Alagun (Alatino of the Austrian map). Thence changing its direction towards the south, it passes

to the west of the village of Kara-Evren, and of the village in ruins of Evreneskeui, both of which remain to Turkey, leaving to Eastern Roumelia that of Tekendje, and makes another bend to the west not far from the spot where the road to Karabanlar branches off from the road from Kara-Evren to Belevrin leaving to Turkey the village of Karabanlar. In that new direction it reaches the defile of Citchandje, between Belevrin and Alatli, then, in a direction from north to south, that of Akmesar, between Bedjenne-Bair and Arabadji-Bair, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the village of Belevrin, to Turkey that of Alatli. From the defile of Akmesar the frontier follows a westerly direction, and reaches the culminating point of Kervan-Seraï-Bair, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the villages of Great and Little Almali, and to Turkey that of Ermeni-Mahale. It reaches subsequently the height called Kara-Iokouch, and thence, taking a south-westerly direction, passes between the village of Kaïbilar, which remains to Eastern Roumelia, and that of Pentcho-Mahale, which remains to Turkey, approaches the hamlet of Malkotchlar, which it leaves to Turkey, goes round the cemetery of the said hamlet, which is also left to Turkey, gains the summit of Kiresli-Bair, and reaches the defile which forms the head of the basins of the Kisildjikli-Dere to the east, of the Utch-Kilisse-Deressi to the west, leaving to Turkey the village of Devlet-Agatch. Resuming afterwards its westerly course, it runs along the road known under the name of Tata-Iol, attains the height of Kodja-Bair-Alanlari between the village of Khodjakeui (Udzakoj of the Austrian map), which remains to Eastern Roumelia, and that of Vaïçal, which remains to Turkey, and reaches the summit of Tchakir-Baba-Tepessi to the east of Buyuk-Derbend, which remains to Eastern Roumelia. To the south of the latter village it attains the height of Skripka-Bair, leaving to Turkey the villages in ruins of Hadjilar and Koutchounli, passes between the village of Teke, which remains to Turkey, and that of Kourtalan, which remains to Eastern Roumelia, reaches the height of Melik-Baba-Tepessi, to the north of the village of Hamza-Beylik, which remains to Turkey, and, going afterwards round that village westwards by the ridge of Kizildjik-Bair, arrives at the culminating point where the ridge terminates to the south.

The frontier, leaving at that point the line of the watershed, attains in a straight line the summit of Ouzoun-Bair, then,

following the continuation of that line, it reaches the mouth of a ravine on the right bank of the Toundja at Dokolianka-Bair. The point where it intersects the Toundja is situated at a distance of about 1,200 metres below a ford known to the country people by the name of Dokolianka-Guetchit.

From the right bank of the Toundja the frontier, running in a straight line in a west-south-westerly direction, passes to the south of the ruined village of Tatarkeui, which remains to Eastern Roumelia, intersects not far from and to the south-west of that village the road from Vakovo to Adrianople, reaches, on the bank of the brook which flows down from the village of Soudjak, a high poplar tree, and arrives at a spot situated in the bed of the Karabach-Dere, to the west of a hill called Dolapska Tepe, the village of Mihalidji remaining to Turkey. The said spot is marked by a perpendicular rock, edging the right bank of the Karabach-Dere at the place where that river, after flowing from west to east, makes a bend at a right angle towards the south, so as to flow near the road which leads from Soudjak to a mill worked by a small tributary from its left bank.

From that rock it follows the bed of the Karabach-Dere as far as the mouth of a ravine which is situated on its left bank, and the thalweg of which runs from south-west to north-east; then ascending the thalweg of that ravine, it arrives at a vineyard, through which it passes, and the northern boundary of which it intersects at a place where the said boundary forms a distinct re-entering angle. Thence, leaving the said thalweg, it runs in a straight line towards the north-north-east, and reaches a point situated at a place called Kodja-Bair, on the side of a path which places the village of Soudjak in communication with that of Dervich-Tepe, the former remaining to Eastern Roumelia, the latter to Turkey. From that point it alters its course to the north-north-west, and, after intersecting the carriage road from Soudjak to Dervich-Tepe, it attains in a straight line the culminating point of the height called Iki-Aghadjlar-Bair, then, following the continuation of that line, the summit of a tumulus situated on the height of Yenitcheri-Tepe, the straight line passing through those two points determining, by its intersection of the path from Soudjak to Dervich-Tepe, the spot previously defined at Kodja Bair.

From Yeni-tcheri-Tepe the frontier follows in a general north-north-westerly direction the ridge of a spur jutting out

from the eastern extremity of the Sakkar-Bair, and of which the most conspicuous spot is the height of Buyuk-Eneze. It reaches at Mostan-Bounar the eastern extremity of the range of the Sakkar-Bair, the ridge of which it follows in its full length in a general direction from east to west. The conspicuous points on that ridge, as one proceeds in the said direction are: the height of Buyuk-Kale, where the remains of an old fortress are to be seen, those of Adam-Mezar, Kaim-Tepe, Kemik-Tepe, and Mangal-Tepe. From the latter point the frontier, still running along the line of heights, arrives at the culminating point of Helmi-Bair, and reaches the defile which joins the range of the Sakkar-Bair to the eastward, with the wood of Gudeler-Bair to the westward, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the village of Giaour-Alan, to Turkey that of Demir-Hanli.* It then alters its direction towards the south, leaving to Eastern Roumelia entirely the wood of Gudeler-Bair, and follows the watershed between the Demirhanli Dere to the east, and the small tributaries of the Maritza to the west.

Quitting the above-named defile; it attains the summits of Bereket-Bair and Baria-Tepe, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the village of Gudeler, passes between the village of Hadjikeui, which remains to Turkey, and that of Bounardja, which remains to Eastern Roumelia, and reaches the height of Baba-Tepe, leaving to Turkey the village of Yeni-Bagh, and to Eastern Roumelia that of Sari-Hanli. Thence it stretches towards the height of the Teke, leaving to Turkey the small monastery in ruins, which is situated on the summit thereof, together with the new village of Iahchi-Beylik, and to Eastern Roumelia the village in ruins of the same name; passes between the village of Ala-Dagh, which remains to Turkey, and those of Bounakli and Ifanli, which remain to Eastern Roumelia, and reaches the point where it leaves the watershed in order to take a westerly direction towards the Maritza.

The frontier intersects the left bank of the Maritza, at the mouth of a small ravine at 5060 metres from, and to the north-west of the centre of the bridge of Mustafa-Pasha, and at 280 metres from, and to the north of a mill situated on the left bank of the river. Thence it reaches in a straight line, running eastwards, a tumulus situated on the western slope of the hill called Ketenli-Bair, and crossing the summit of the said hill arrives by the shortest way at the mouth of a ravine, the

thalweg of which is sensibly directed from west to east. It then ascends this thalweg up to its commencement, in order to meet the watershed at the above-mentioned point.

The frontier, leaving the left bank of the Maritza, reaches in a straight line a poplar tree (Kodja Kavak), which overtops all the trees in the neighbourhood, and which is situated on the right bank of the river and not far from that bank, at a place called Toussous-Oglou-Tarlassi. From that tree it takes a general direction towards the south-west, and reaches in a straight line the highest point on the eastern bank of the railway cutting, at a place called Said-Beyhine-Kirmassi-Bachi, to the north-west of the railway station at Mustafa-Pasha, which remains to Turkey; it then runs, still in a straight line, as far as a group of three tumuli (Utch-Euyukler), and thence it reaches an isolated tumulus, situated at a place named Sidero-Tarlassi; then finally, not far from the last-mentioned tumulus, it arrives at the mouth of a very deep ravine, in which the Tchinar-Dere flows; the village of Mesek remaining to Turkey, that of Guektche-Dere to Eastern Roumelia. It ascends afterwards the thalweg of that stream in order to attain the ridge of the Bechtepe-Dagh, which forms the watershed between the Maritza to the north and the Arda to the south. It reaches this ridge at the lowest point of the defile which divides the height of Koulagh-Tepe from that of Kourtkeui-Kale, upon the summit of which are the ruins of an old fortress, and follows it, stretching towards the north-west, up to the culminating point of the height of Pitchka-Bounar, and then takes a westerly direction, as far as that of Kara-Tepe; the villages of Halvan-Dere and Kosloundja remaining to Eastern Roumelia, those of Kourtkeui and Kireslik to Turkey.

The frontier, leaving the ridge of the Bechtepe-Dagh at Kara-Tepe, takes towards the Arda a general course from north-east to south-west. It gains the summit of a hillock, at a place called Baghlik-Tepe, following the watershed between the Saz-Bounar to the east, and the Ouroumkeui-Dere to the west, the village of Ouroumkeui being left to Eastern Roumelia. From there it reaches, in a straight line, the crest of another hillock, at the place called Yailadjik-Tepe, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the villages of Yatchali and Kodja-Inli so as to arrive afterwards, still in a straight line, at the lowest point of a remarkable defile, dividing the heights which rise along the left bank of the Arda, at about 1500 metres from, and to the north-west of, the

village of Adatchali, which remains to Turkey, as well as those of Yeni-Keui and Sulbukum. Thence it meets the river Arda, following the thalweg of a ravine, the mouth of which opens into that river, not far from, and to the east of, a ford known by the name of Deghirmen-Guetchit.

From that point it follows, continuously from east to west, the thalweg of the Arda as far as the confluence of that river with the Tcham-Dere (Yailadjik-Dere of the Austrian map), leaving to Eastern Roumelia all the villages which are found on the left bank, and to Turkey all those which are on the right bank. The said confluence is situated below a very remarkable bend formed by the Arda, on the left bank of that river, between the village of Hissar-Alti-Keui and that of Kouroudja-Viran, the former remaining to Turkey, the latter to Eastern Roumelia.

At that point it leaves the thalweg of the Arda, and taking a general direction towards the north-west, ascends the thalweg of the Tcham-Dere up to the village of Hassankeui, leaving to Turkey all the villages, hamlets, and isolated houses which are on the right bank, and to Eastern Roumelia all those which are on the left bank. On arriving at the village of Hassankeui it leaves for a little while the thalweg of the Tcham-Dere in order to go round the dwellings which are situated on the left bank, the said village being entirely attached to Turkey; it then resumes the thalweg of the Tcham-Dere, which it follows as far as the village of Raka-Derekeui. On reaching that village it leaves for a while the thalweg of the river in order to go round the dwellings situated on the left bank, the said village being, like that of Hassankeui, entirely attached to Turkey. It ascends subsequently the thalweg of the Raka-Dere, which it follows up to the confluence of that river with the Ambar-Dere, leaving to Turkey the village of Alabouroun situated on the right bank. Thence it ascends the thalweg of the Botchva-Dere up to its confluence with the Arpa-Guedik-Dere, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the villages of Kukez and Utch-Tepe, situated on the left bank, and then the thalweg of the Arpa-Guedik-Dere, which it follows up to its source, reaching the defile of Arpa-Guedik, situated on the north-east of a conspicuous rock called Kiz-Kaya, on the line of watershed between the Maritza to the north and the Arda to the south.

From the defile of Arpa-Guedik up to a point situated to the

north-west of the height known under the name of Baïram-Yeri, and answering to that which is called Kruchova-Dagh on the Austrian map, the frontier follows continuously in a general west-south-westerly direction, the line of the watershed between the Maritza to the north and the Arda to the south. Leaving that defile it gains the summit of Akva-Tepe, passes to the north of the village of Ambar-Dere, which remains to Turkey, and after following the ridge of the Karakolas-Dagh, reaches successively the heights of Eïri-Tepe, Inahan-Baba, Tchil-Tepe, Bourjof-Pojar, Sveta-Douha, Mamina-Voda, Sveti-Georgi, Karamanetz, Satchou-Mekat and Boukovak-Tepe, the village of Dolna-Derekeui remaining to Turkey. It then attains the summit of Djibrail-Tepe, to the south of Tchepeleli-Dagh; then those of Tcheina-Gora, Karadja-Evress, Kotlitz, Echek-Moulagh, Touzla-Tepe and Kouzou-Yataghi. Thence it reaches the defile of Mezar-Guedik, then the height of Tchuruk-Tepe, where the range of the Karlik-Dagh detaches itself from the line of the watershed; reaches the summits of Moussa-Yataklar and Kartal-Kaya, and arrives at a point of the ridge which is the common origin of three basins, namely, that of the Maritza to the north, that of the Arda to the south-east, and that of the Mesta-Karasou to the south-west. The point alluded to belongs to a hilly wood, down from which flow the following rivers; towards the south-east the Kara-Dere, which flows into the Arda; and towards the south-west the Baïram-Yeri-Deressi, which flows into the Mesta-Karasou. It is situated to the north-west of the height called Baïram-Yeri, and answers to that which is marked on the Austrian map under the name of Kruchova-Dagh. The height which the people of the country call by the latter name (Kruchova or Kirchova-Dagh) belongs to a secondary range, which branches off from the line of the watershed by the Vlasko-Dagh to the south-west of Torsoundja-Tepe.

From the point above defined up to its junction with the Bulgarian boundary, the frontier follows continuously the line of the watershed between the Maritza to the north and the Mesta-Karasou to the south. Still running from that point in a west-south-westerly direction, it attains the summit of Daliboska, the defile of Souvan-Guedik, and the culminating point of Torsoundja-Tepe; then, altering its direction towards the west, it runs along the ridges of Mechat-Guedik, Sari-Yer, Dikili-Tach, and Arab-Mezar, and reaches afterwards the heights of Hadji-

Osman-Yailassi, Debeklitzkaïa-Goria, and Kaïntchal-Tepe. At that point, it makes a bend towards the north; reaches the summit of Kartal-Tepe where the range of the Kaïntchal-Kartal-Dagh branches off from the line of watershed; follows the ridges of Kouzou-Yataghi, reaches successively the heights of Keur-Issa, Avliko, Tchäïrli-Yailassi, and after following the ridges of Chahin-Kiran, attains the culminating points of Gueuz-Tepe and Tchali-Yailassi-Sirtlari, then the defile of El-Guedik and the heights of Veternitza and Kara-Mahmoud, the village of Jilandji remaining to Turkey. Hence it reaches the defile of Koulaous-Guedik, then the summit of Pernardat-Tepe, and the defile of Kirdja-Dere-Bachi-Guedik; follows the ridges of Abdoullah-Bair and Ouman-Bair; attains the heights of Kutchukli-Yailassi, Selena-Yailassi and Kavaldji-Dagh, and reaches a point where the range of the Djinevra-Dagh begins. Altering then its direction towards the west, it follows the ridge of the Djinevra-Dagh, the culminating point of which is the height of Yanik-Tepe, then the ridge of Soudjak-Bair, the eastern extremity of which it reaches at Soudjak-Tepe. At that point it takes a north-westerly direction, and running along the ridge of the Dospad-Dagh, attains the heights of Telli-Tepe, Kara-Tepe, and Belebrek; then, making a bend towards the west, those of Kourou-Tepe and Tcheresna-Tepe.

Thence, taking a general direction towards the north, it arrives at the culminating point of Gueul-Tepe, attains the summit of Lupova-Bair, leaving to Turkey the isolated dwellings of Hussein-Tepe, Keur-Oglou, and Ouzoun-Ibrahim; then that of Krastova-Tchal, leaving to Turkey the hamlet of Durlu-Koulebeleri, and to Eastern Roumelia that of Konou; reaches the culminating point of Velitcha-Bair, the village of Tchemerna remaining to Turkey, the hamlets or isolated dwellings of Bouzgo, Petro, Diremko, Islam, Debeftzi remaining to Eastern Roumelia. It attains afterwards the height of Abramova, leaving to Turkey the hamlets and houses of Redjen-Moustapha, Moustapha-Bey, Teber, and Khirli, and to Eastern Roumelia those of Boulout and Kandi-Moustapha; then it reaches the summits of Lazova-Tepe and Paschova, the village of Paschova remaining to Eastern Roumelia, and gains successively the heights of Tchista-Tepe, Kotosch-kovitza, and Kara-Tepe, leaving to Eastern Roumelia the Wallachian village of Oulah-Kouleberi; then those of Kutchuk-Tchadir-Tepe, Ostovitza, and Sungurlu.

From the culminating point of Sungurlu, the frontier goes towards the west by the heights of Ravni-Tchal, Sivri-Tach, Daouditza, Orta-Tchal, Tchinguiane-Tchal and Mantcho, where it meets the Bulgarian frontier. The height of Mantcho is the common origin of three basins, namely, that of the Maritza to the north, that of the Isker to the north-west, and that of the Mesta-Kara-Sou to the south. It corresponds with the height marked on the Austrian map under the name of Tchadir-Tepe; but in reality the height known under that name in the country is situated at 5 kilometres from, and to the north of that of Mantcho, and is on the frontier line of Bulgaria. Thus, as it has been stated above, a height of that name exists also at 8 kilometres to the south of that of Sungurlu.

3. In the preceding description, when a frontier follows a natural line, such as a ridge, a watershed, the thalweg of a river or of a ravine, it is always understood that a mathematical line is meant. It will, however, remain with the interested parties to substitute for it by mutual agreement a drawing formed by a polygonal line, or based upon existing enclosures, paths and roads, provided the said drawing does not depart sensibly from the mathematical line, and that it leaves on either side of it equivalent areas.

No landmark nor sign of any sort having been left on the ground by the Commission, it will rest with the interested parties to place by mutual agreement such landmarks as shall be deemed necessary.

4. The frontier line has been laid down upon a topographical plan, drawn upon a scale of $\frac{1}{42,000}$ from the survey made by the Russian topographical service. This plan, comprising nineteen sheets and one index sheet, has been reproduced in seven copies, each of which has been signed by all the Commissioners; it has been placed as an explanatory document in support of the present Act, to which it remains annexed.*

5. The present Act, comprising 5 Articles, has been made out in seven copies, to each of which all the Commissioners have affixed their signatures.

It shall be immediately submitted to the Governments of Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, Russia

* See Catalogue of Maps in the Library of the Foreign Office, "Turkey, 26B."

25 Oct., 1879.] GREAT BRITAIN, &c., AND TURKEY. [No. 556
[Southern Boundary. Eastern Roumelia.]

and Turkey, for their approval, by their respective Commissioners.

Done at Constantinople, 25th October, 1879.

(L.S.) R. GORDON.
(L.S.) KRAHMER.
(L.S.) WURMBRAND.
(L.S.) L. NICOLAS.
(L.S.) D. TORNAGHI.
(L.S.) PHILIPPOFF.
(L.S.) CHAKIR.

No. 557.—*ROUMANIAN LAW amending Article VII of the Roumanian Constitution of 30th June, 1866, respecting Religious Equality, and Naturalization. 25th October, 1879.**

(Translation.)

IN lieu of Article VII of the Constitution,† subject to amendment, the following shall be substituted :—

ART. VII. Difference of religious beliefs and denominations shall not constitute, in Roumania, an obstacle to the acquirement and to the enjoyment of civil and political rights.

§ 1. Every foreigner, without distinction of creed, and whether he be or not under foreign protection, shall be able to become naturalized under the following conditions :—

(a.) He shall present to the Government a memorial praying for naturalization, in which he shall state the amount of his capital, the profession or trade which he follows, and his intention of residing permanently in Roumania.

(b.) Subsequently to this application, he shall reside in Roumania for 10 years, and shall prove by his deeds that he is useful to the country.

§ 2. The following persons shall be relieved from the usual probation :—

(a.) Those who shall have brought into the country useful trades or inventions, or who shall be distinguished by their talents, or those who shall have established large manufactures or commercial houses.

(b.) Those who, born and educated in the country of parents established there, shall not at any time (children or parents) have been under foreign protection.

(c.) Those who shall have served with the colours during the War of Independence.

The latter may be naturalized collectively upon the Government presenting a bill to that effect, by a single law and without any further formality.

* For authorized French Translation, see "State Papers," Vol. 71, p. 1176.

† Constitution, 30th June, 1866, Art. VII. (Translation.) "Foreigners of Christian rites can alone obtain naturalization." "State Papers," Vol. 57, p. 263.

[Religion. Naturalization.]

§ 3. Naturalization can only be granted by law and individually.

§ 4. A special law shall regulate the conditions under which foreigners may establish their domicile in Roumania.

§ 5. Roumanian subjects, either by birth or by naturalization, shall be entitled to acquire rural property ("des immeubles ruraux") in Roumania. Acquired rights shall be respected. All international Conventions actually existing remain in force with all their stipulations, and until the time for which they have been concluded shall have expired.

[The alteration thus made in the Roumanian Constitution was promulgated by a Decree dated 25th October, 1879.]

No. 558.—*PROCÈS-VERBAUX of the Meetings of the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, respecting the Bulgarian Frontier and the proposed Bridge over the Danube, near Silistria,* in accordance with Articles II and XLVI of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). 27th October—11th November, 1879.†*

ABSTRACT OF PROCÈS-VERBAUX.‡

No. 1. Election of President and Officers of Secretariat. Questions to be decided by a majority of votes; unanimity not necessary. Roumanian Representatives. Decision to admit them whenever the Commission are taking information, but not when deliberating. Petition from Bulgarian subjects in Silistria, respecting inconveniences of proposed Frontier (Annex).

Silistria, 27th October, 1879.

No. 2. Arrival of General Struve, Commissioner for Russia. Discussion as to Duties of Commission. Commission cannot receive Petition of Silistrian Population. Admission of Bulgarian Delegates declared to be unnecessary. Discussion as to site of Bridge over Danube. Memorandum by Roumanian Delegates (Annex).

Silistria, 28th October, 1879.

No. 3. Account of explorations of Commission, from 29th to 31st October. Further discussion with regard to admission of Bulgarian Delegates, consequent upon Instructions received by Commissioners from their respective Governments. Motion in favour of admission of M. Antonovitch, a Bulgarian Delegate, carried. His introduction to Commission. Discussion on Bridge question. Commission refuse to admit Deputations from Silistria and Almali. Wishes of Deputations to be interpreted through M.

* See Exchange of Notes, August-September, 1880, No. 577.

† The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain :	{ Captain Sale.
	{ Lieut. Caillard (Assistant).
„ Germany :	Major Heyde.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Colonel Jaeger.
„ France :	M. Lalanne.
„ Italy :	Major de Sponzilli.
„ Russia :	{ General Struve.
	{ M. Karischeff (Assistant).
„ Turkey :	{ General Yahya Pasha.
	{ M. Gabriel Effendi (Noradounghian) (Assistant).

‡ For the full text of these Procès-Verbaux, in the French language, see “Parliamentary Paper,” Turkey, No. 2 (1880), pages 417 to 449.

[Bulgarian Boundary. Bridge over Danube near Silistria.]

Karamihailoff. Note by General Struve respecting Passage of Danube between *Kalarache* and *Silistria*.

Silistria, 1st November, 1879.

- No. 4. Memorandum presented by *Roumanian* Delegate respecting Bridge (Annex), also by *Bulgarian* Delegate (Annex). Questions respecting *Kalarache* embankment. Commission decide that the motion upon Bridge question shall be as to possibility of the construction of a Bridge over the *Danube* upon the site indicated by *Russian* Commissioner, and as to which of the following two sites is preferable: *Cioroiu-Kanlia*, proposed by *Russian* Commissioner, or *Silistria-Kalarache*, chosen by *Bulgarian* Boundary Commission. Commission to proceed to *Bucharest*.

Silistria, 3rd November, 1879.

- No. 5. Motion at last Sitting respecting site of Bridge formulated. All except *Russian* Commissioner declare in favour of that at *Silistria-Kalarache*. Commission decide to insert in the Procès-Verbal of a later Sitting the Notes written by the several Commissioners on the subject of the site of the Bridge.

Bucharest, 5th November, 1879.

- No. 6. Adoption, with slight modifications, of Procès-Verbaux Nos. 4 and 5. Statement respecting Plain of *Kalarache*. Exception taken by *British* Commissioner to plan of *Kitchiu-Kalarache* embankment. Observation by President that the Procès-Verbaux of the Sittings are the only documents of which the Commission are able to recognize the authenticity.

Bucharest, 9th November, 1879.

- No. 7. Notes written by Commissioners respecting site of Bridge are read. Observation by *Russian* Commissioner respecting navigation of the *Borcia*. Commission express thanks to President and Secretariat, and proceedings are closed.

Bucharest, 11th November, 1879.

No. 559.—PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES *between the Plenipotentiaries of Greece* and Turkey, respecting the Rectification of the Greek Frontier. Constantinople, 22nd August—17th November, 1879.*

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.

- No. 1. Appointment of Secretaries, &c. *Greek* declaration calling upon the Porte to accept the 13th Protocol of the *Berlin* Congress (No. 526) as the basis of the negotiation.

Constantinople, 22nd August, 1879.

- No. 2. *Ottoman* declaration respecting the situation, and statement to the effect that the indications of Protocol 13 are not considered by the Powers as obligatory upon *Turkey*, but that the terms of the Protocol will be accepted as a first basis of negotiation, provided that either party be allowed to modify the clauses referring to the extreme points of the proposed line of frontier. *Greek* Plenipotentiaries press for a clear reply to the request made at the first meeting. *Turkish* Plenipotentiary points out that two misunderstandings exist on the subject of the rectification of the frontier; the first being the pretended obligatory character of the award (*avis*) expressed by the Powers at *Berlin* (No. 569); the second, the belief that the Powers have designated two extreme points of the future tracing, one on the *Egean Sea*, the other on the *Ionian Sea*. *Greek* Plenipotentiary accepts the declaration *ad referendum*.

Constantinople, 31st August, 1879.

- No. 3. *Greek* declaration and renewed demand for an answer to the proposal for a basis of negotiation. Discussion respecting the indications of the 13th Protocol of the *Berlin* Congress (No. 526). Attempt to enter upon the discussion of the practical side of the question, that is to say, of the points of departure of the new frontier line. Question as to obligatory character of Protocol 13 again brought on. No understanding being arrived at, the *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries decide to give a written reply at next meeting to *Greek* declaration.

Constantinople, 6th September, 1879.

* The Greek Plenipotentiaries were :—

A. G. Coundouriotis,
Braïlas Arméni,
Panos Colocotronis.

The Turkish Plenipotentiaries were :—

Safvet Pasha,
Sawas Pasha,
Ali Saïb Pasha.

[Turco-Greek Boundary. Constantinople Conferences.]

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- No. 4. *Ottoman* counter-declaration read reviewing the position of affairs. Lengthy discussion respecting the basis of negotiations. No agreement arrived at. Further *Ottoman* declaration proposed for the acceptance of the *Greek* Plenipotentiaries to the effect that the latter are disposed to consider the indications of Protocol 13 of the *Berlin* Congress (No. 526) as susceptible of discussion and modification. *Greek* Plenipotentiaries accept the declaration *ad referendum*.

Constantinople, 10th September, 1879.

- No. 5. *Greek* Government reject *Ottoman* declaration made at the end of the last meeting. New *Greek* declaration approved by *Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia*, that the two parties accept as point of departure of the new frontier line and as the basis of discussion, the indications of Protocol 13 (No. 526). *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries willing to accept it with the necessary explanations, but these their *Greek* colleagues refuse. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries state their readiness to take as first basis of discussion the geographical indications of Protocol 13. *Greek* Plenipotentiaries refuse to proceed with the discussion, but will refer to their Government the last statement of their *Ottoman* colleagues.

Constantinople, 5th October, 1879.

- No. 6. *Greek* Plenipotentiaries request their *Ottoman* colleagues to make known the tracing of the frontier that they would propose. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries think that it would be useless to discuss any frontier line other than the general line of the valleys of *Calamas* and *Peneus*. *Greek* Plenipotentiaries refuse to begin the discussion, and urge their *Ottoman* colleagues to explain in what manner they regard that line. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries persist in the view that their *Hellenic* colleagues should take the initiative. Discussion adjourned.

Constantinople, 18th October, 1879.

- No. 7. *Turkish* and *Greek* declarations respecting new frontier line read. *Greek* declaration follows the indications of Protocol 13 of the *Berlin* Congress (No. 526).

Constantinople, 24th October, 1879.

- No. 8. Lengthy discussion with regard to the declarations made at last Sitting. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries affirm that the *Greek* tracing of the frontier-line does not correspond with the indications of Protocol 13.

Constantinople, 29th October, 1879.

- No. 9. *Greek* Plenipotentiary reads a memorandum giving details of, and reasons for adopting the tracing proposed at the preceding Sitting. *Ottoman* memorandum read demonstrating the inadmissibility of the *Greek* tracing, which is quite opposed to the indications of Protocol 13, and making known the line traced upon the southern heights of the valleys of *Calamas* and *Peneus*, which the *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries consider to be more in accordance with the terms of that Protocol. *Greek* Pleni-

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potentiaries insist on the adoption and formal proposal by their *Ottoman* colleagues of a line of frontier before a discussion can be commenced. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiaries refuse to propose a line, and state that it is only after discussion that one can be adopted. Next meeting fixed for November 23rd.*

Constantinople, 17th November, 1879.

* This sitting took place; but the meeting was postponed several times under various pretexts, and ultimately the Greek Government instructed their Commissioners to propose to the Ottoman Representatives that the matter should be referred to the arbitration of the Great Powers. The question was finally settled by a Conference, which sat at Berlin from June 16 to July 1, 1880, for the Protocols of which, see Nos. 567, 568. But see also Nos. 584 and 586.

No. 560.—*TREATY OF COMMERCE, &c., between Great Britain and Servia, recording the consent of Her Majesty to surrender conditionally the Privileges, &c., hitherto enjoyed by British Subjects in Servia, in virtue of the Capitulations with the Porte. 7th February, 1880.*

[A TREATY of Friendship and Commerce was concluded between Great Britain and Servia, on the 7th February, 1880, which contained the following Article:—*

ART. XIII. In consideration of the present Treaty, and as contemplated by Article XXXVII of the Treaty concluded at Berlin on the 13th July, 1878 (**No. 530**), Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland consents to surrender the privileges and immunities hitherto enjoyed by Her subjects in Servia, in virtue of the Capitulations between Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire as agreed upon, augmented, and altered at different periods, and finally confirmed by the Treaty of Peace concluded at the Dardanelles on the 5th January, 1809†:

Provided always, and it is hereby expressly agreed, that the said Capitulations shall, as regards all judicial matters, except those affecting real estate in Servia, remain in full force as far as they concern the mutual relations between British subjects and the subjects of those other Powers which, having a right to the privileges and immunities accorded by the aforesaid Capitulations, shall not have surrendered them.]

* See "Hertslet's Treaties," Vol. 15, page 346.

† See "Hertslet's Treaties," Vol. 2, page 371.

No. 561.—*AUSTRIAN LAW respecting the Administration of the Affairs of Bosnia and the Herzegovina; in execution of Article XXVI of the Treaty of Berlin of 13th July, 1878 (No. 530). Vienna, 22nd February, 1880.*

(Translation.)

WITH the assent of both Houses of the Reichsrath, I think fit to ordain as follows:—

ART. 1. In pursuance of the existing laws for the common affairs of the Monarchy, the Ministry is authorized, as hereby instructed, to direct and administer the affairs of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, provisionally to be carried on by the Ministry for the common affairs of the Monarchy according as the Constitution ordains.

ART. 2. The fixing of the leading principles of this provisional administration, and the construction of railways, are especially to be considered in agreement with the Governments of both parts of the Monarchy.

ART. 3. The administration of these provinces is to be so carried on that the expenditure does not exceed the revenue.

But where this is not fully to be attained, the propositions in regard to the sums required for the ordinary administration have to be fixed in accordance with the existing laws for the common affairs, in agreement with the Governments of both parts of the Monarchy.

But in case the Government both of Bosnia and of the Herzegovina should require the financial assistance of the Monarchy for permanent investments, apart from the current expenses of administration, such as for railways, public buildings, and similar extraordinary disbursements, this financial assistance is only to be granted by laws passed by both parts of the Monarchy.

ART. 4. In the same manner the principles are to be fixed for the regulation and management of the following affairs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina:—

(1.) The Customs;

(2.) Those indirect taxes which are under the joint administration of both parts of the Monarchy.

(3.) The coinage.

[Bosnia and Herzegovina.]

ART. 5. Any change in the existing relations of these provinces requires the sanction and consent of the legislative bodies of both parts of the Monarchy.

ART. 6. The present Law is to come into force on the day of its promulgation, provided that the above stipulations have been fully ratified in all territories belonging to the Hungarian Crown, and published alike on the same day as this Law.

Vienna, February 22, 1880.

FRANZ JOSEPH.

TAAFFE.

STREMAJR.

HORST.

ZIEMIALKOWSKI.

FALKENHAYN:

KORB.

PAZAK.

CONRAD-EYBESFELD.

KRIEGSAU.

[*British* Consular Jurisdiction in Bosnia and the Herzegovina ceased on the 1st November, 1880, and a notice to that effect was published by the Government of Bosnia and the Herzegovina on the 25th of that month. *Austrian* Consular Jurisdiction ceased in those Provinces on the 1st May, 1880. *German* Consular Jurisdiction ceased on the 1st January, 1881, and a notice to that effect was published by the Government of Bosnia and the Herzegovina on the 5th of the following month: *Italian* Consular Jurisdiction ceased in August, 1881. *French* Consular Jurisdiction ceased on the 16th September, 1881. *Russian* Consular Jurisdiction ceased in November, 1881; and a Notification, announcing the renunciation by Italy, France, and Russia of Consular Jurisdiction in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, was issued by the Government of those Provinces on the 22nd October, 1881.]

No. 562.—*RAILWAY CONVENTION between Austria-Hungary and Servia, for the construction of Lines from Pesth to Semlin; from Belgrade to Nisch; from Nisch to the Servo-Bulgarian Frontier, in the direction of the line from Bellova to Constantinople; and from Nisch to the Servo-Turkish Frontier, in the direction of Salonica, to join Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway; in execution of Article XXXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Signed at Vienna, 9th April, 1880.*

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

ART. I. In execution of the stipulations laid down in the Convention concluded at Berlin on July 8th (June 26th), 1878,* by virtue of which the junction of the railways of the two countries by Semlin-Belgrade was to be effected within the space of three years, the two Contracting Parties have agreed to carry out this junction in the following manner, but without prejudice to other railway junctions, the utility of which, for mutual advantage, they may agree to recognise in the future.

ART. II. To this effect the Royal Hungarian Government will construct, before the $\frac{3rd}{15th}$ June, 1883, a junction from Buda-Pesth by Semlin to Belgrade, on the Servo-Hungarian frontier,† reserving to itself the right to effect this junction by a new line starting from Buda-Pesth, or by a joining of the lines already in existence.‡

On the other hand, the Servian Government engages to construct, also before the $\frac{3rd}{15th}$ June, 1883, a railway in connection with the above-mentioned line, which shall start from the Servo-Hungarian frontier at Belgrade, and, ascending the valley of the Morava, shall lead to Nisch, with branches off on one side from Nisch to the Servo-Bulgarian frontier near Bellova, in the direction of Constantinople, and on the other from Nisch to the Servo-Bulgarian frontier near Salonica, in order to join, at a convenient point, the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway.‡

* See note, page 2788.

† See Convention between Austria, Turkey, Servia, and Bulgaria, 9th May, 1883 (No. 601).

‡ See Protocol, page 2950.

[Railways.]

ART. III. The two Governments engage to commence without delay, or, at the latest, within six months from the ^{3rd}/_{15th} June, 1880, the construction of the lines of railway specified in the preceding Article, commencing with the works which are technically the most difficult. They engage besides to put these lines into working order at the time fixed for their completion, so that Servia shall open the Servian lines starting from Belgrade, and in such a manner that neither of the branches to the south of Nisch can be opened before the opening of the line of junction to the north, which includes the connection at Belgrade with the Hungarian line which shall at that time have already been finished.

The Contracting Parties will unite in their endeavours to ensure, as soon as possible, the execution projected in the first paragraph of the Convention concluded at Berlin on July 8th (June 26th), 1878,* of the junctions between the Servian railway lines which branch off at Nisch on the one side, and the existing line from Salonica to Mitrovitza, as also that from Constantinople to Bellova on the other, so that the said junctions may be finished and opened for traffic also by the ^{3rd}/_{15th} June, 1883. For this purpose the Contracting Governments will, in concert, open negotiations with the Governments of Turkey and Bulgaria so as to bring about the conclusion of the necessary arrangements as soon as possible.

ART. IV. The two Governments engage to effect the junction of the lines indicated in Article II by means of a bridge to be built over the Save near Belgrade.

ART. V. The permanent bridge over the Save which is to connect the railway lines on both sides, and which should be erected somewhere between the town of Belgrade and the islands above it, shall be constructed at such a place and in such a manner as shall be decided upon by a Special Commission of experts, simultaneously nominated for this purpose by the Governments of Hungary and Servia. This Commission will settle, at the same time, the works which may become necessary, in consequence of the construction of the bridge, for the protection of the banks, and the regulation of the current of the river. The Commission should arrive at the decisions in question as soon as possible, and, at the latest, within a period

* See Note, page 2788.

[Railways.]

of six months after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention.

The above-mentioned Commission will draw up the plan and the estimate of the cost of the bridge to be constructed over the Save, as also of the works to be mutually undertaken for regulating the current and protecting the banks, and will submit them for the approval of the two Governments. It is understood that the extensions of the bridge on either side eventually rendered necessary by floods will not enter into the estimates of the Commission. The establishment of a station at Belgrade and the placing of the bridge over the Save being correlative, the Commission will also be called upon to give its advice with regard to the establishment of the said station.

The cost of the construction of the bridge over the Save, as also of the works for the regulation of the river and the protection of the banks—works which will be recognized as indispensable to the security of the bridge—will be equally divided between the Governments of Hungary and Servia, or between the guarantors (*concessionnaires*) respectively.

The cost of maintenance and of eventual reconstruction of the bridge and of the works attaching to it, viz., for the regulation of the river and the protection of its banks, will, like the cost of construction, be equally divided between the Hungarian and Servian Governments, or between the guarantors (*concessionnaires*) respectively.

ART. VI. *Construction of bridge and works for river regulation, and the security of the banks.*

ART. VII.* The bridge over the Save shall not, without special permission of one of the two Contracting Parties, be used by the other, either in time of peace or of war, for the transport of troops or for any other war purposes; neither shall it be fortified nor destroyed.

ART. VIII. *Railway service on the frontier.*

ART. IX. *Fares to be charged by the above railways, public taxes, time and manner of expedition.*

ART. X. *Railways to be constructed and worked on similar principles.*

ART. XI. *Through tariffs both for passenger and goods traffic.*

ART. XII. *Time tables.*

* See Protocol, page 2951.

[Railways.]

ART. XIII. *Protection of the railway traffic against all interruptions; rolling stock.*

ART. XIV. *Disinfection of goods and carriages.*

ART. XV. *Appointment of Commissioners on railway boards.*

ART. XVI. *Supreme territorial authority, police supervision, and punishment of acts committed in other States.*

ART. XVII. *Examination of passengers' luggage, and formalities in respect to exported and imported goods.*

ART. XVIII. *Post and Telegraph administrations.*

ART. XIX. *Mutual interests of traffic and police administrations on the frontier.*

ART. XX. *Reassembling of Commission composed of Delegates from Austria-Hungary, Servia, Turkey, and Bulgaria in accordance with Convention of 8th July, 1878.**

ART. XXI. This Convention shall be laid before the respective legislative bodies, and shall be put in force immediately after the exchange of the ratifications,† which shall take place at Vienna not later than June $\frac{3}{15}$, 1880.

Signed at Vienna, $\frac{28\text{th March,}}{9\text{th April,}}$ 1880.

Substance of Final Protocol signed at the same time as the above Convention.

The Austro-Hungarian Plenipotentiary declares with reference to Article II, that his Government understand the words "a joining of the lines already in existence" to mean a joining of the lines already existing at Szegedin or Nagy-Kikinda.

With reference to the conditions laid down in Article II as to the construction of a line from Nisch by way of Pirot to the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, near Bellova, in the direction of Constantinople, the two Contracting Parties agree to unite in their efforts to bring about the timely completion of the Bulgarian branch, in accordance with the obligations imposed on Bulgaria by the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). If, however, the Convention with Bulgaria should not be concluded within a year after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention, the two Contracting Parties agree that the term for the construction of

* Page 2788.

† Ratifications exchanged at Vienna, 14th June, 1880.

[Railways.]

the line from Nisch to the Servo-Bulgarian frontier shall commence from the date of the Convention with Bulgaria, assuring the junction of that line; but, in that case, Servia engages to finish the line in question and put it into international working order within the space of three years from the said date.

To establish the agreement referred to in Article VII, it is understood that a Commissioner shall be sent by the Servian Government to Buda-Pesth for the settlement of the works in connection with the erection of the bridge over the Save.

[For other Railway arrangements, see Index, under the heading of Railways.]

No. 563.—*PROTOCOL between Turkey and Montenegro, consenting to a departure from the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), by the Cession of a certain portion of Territory by the Sultan to the Prince of Montenegro, in lieu of the Districts of Gusinje and Plava. Constantinople, 12th April, 1880.**

(Translation.)

MEMORANDUM signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, and by the Chargé d’Affaires of His Highness the Prince of Montenegro, to be presented to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), respecting the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire and of Montenegro.†

The undersigned, duly authorized by their high Governments, have agreed that the territory of Gusinje and Plava which, according to the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**) were to have become part of the territory of Montenegro, shall be replaced by other territories; and that, in consequence, the frontier line between the two States shall be drawn according to the blue line marked on the six maps bearing the initials of the undersigned, and annexed to the present Act, and following the indication inscribed on each of the said maps; that is to say, that it will start from the sea, in conformity with the line proposed by the English Commissioner, from the point V. Kruci, and will follow exactly this sketch as far as the lake. (This part of the frontier having been definitively traced, the Commission will no longer have to concern itself with it, except to cause the works to be executed relating to the placing of the landmarks.) Thence it will cross the lake in a straight line, and passing through the middle of the Gulfs of Kastrati and Hotti, it will reach, by way of the summits of Mounts Kuse and Hotti, the River Zem, above a point designated on the Austrian Staff map by the name of Serçi. From that point the frontier line will follow the thalweg of the River Zem, going up as far as the foot of Mount Golieh, which, as well as the village of Selcit, shall remain to Turkey. Leaving the Zem at

* This boundary was altered by subsequent Agreements, *see* Map facing Convention of 21st December, 1884 (**No. 605**). *See* also Notes, page 2781 and 2954.

† *See* Protocol, 18th April, 1880 (**No. 564**).

Selcit, the frontier line will ascend the hill of Sukotvile and will follow the crest of the Jeznica Mountain. Thence it will cross the Vermos Valley and will run towards the summit of Mount Stociza. As far as this point, the maps of the Italian and Russian Commissioners will, with the exception of the point of Serci, serve as a basis. From that point, which is the extreme point on the Commissioners' map, the tracing will follow the line indicated on the initialled Austrian map, which map will serve as a basis for the delimitation to be made on the spot. Thence, the frontier line will run along the ridge of the mountains, across the summits Lipovica, Zelentin, as far as the summit of Mount Visitor, whence, leaving the village of Velika to Montenegro, it will terminate at Mokra Planina, which shall remain to Turkey.

Evacuation of Montenegrin Territory by Turkish Troops.

The Ottoman forces shall be bound to evacuate within ten days from the signing of the present Act, all the positions which they are now occupying beyond the new boundaries of the Empire.

Twenty-four hours before the evacuation, the commanding officers in the localities occupied by the Imperial Ottoman Army shall give due notice to the commander of the Prince of Montenegro's forces at Podgoritzza of the precise hour at which they will retire from the positions occupied by them.* They shall await that hour without leaving those places with their troops, and they will only quit them at the hour fixed.

The Governor-General of Scutari will be charged on the part of the Imperial Ottoman Government with the duty of exchanging the Official Act of Cession. His Highness the Prince of Montenegro will name for the same purpose one of his generals.

After the evacuation by the Imperial Ottoman Army of the exchanged territory, the Imperial Government will be free from all obligation respecting the maintenance of public order in that country, and will not be answerable to anyone for such acts as may take place there, and with regard to which it will not be held responsible to any person.

It is understood that this arrangement shall be submitted to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

* See Note, page 2954.

[Montenegrin Boundary. "Corti Compromise."]

The Sublime Porte will, in conjunction with the Prince's Government, propose without delay to the Governments signatories of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), to authorize their Representatives at Constantinople to meet in Conference in order to proceed to the signing of a Protocol settling the above-mentioned conditions.*

Done and signed in duplicate at Constantinople, 12th April, 1880.

(L.S.) SAWAS.

(L.S.) VOUKOVITCH.

Note.—The Turkish Authorities failed to carry out this engagement; and the Governor-General of Scutari compromised the Agreement by allowing a delay of 7 hours only, instead of 24, for the Montenegrin troops to take possession of the ceded localities. A Collective Note upon the subject was, therefore, addressed by the Representatives of the Treaty Powers to the Porte on the 24th April, 1880, to which the Porte replied, in a Note Verbale, on the 29th of the same month. On the 11th June following, an Identical Note was addressed by the Representatives of the Treaty Powers to the Porte (**No. 566**), demanding the execution of the Agreement which it had entered into with Montenegro on the 12th April preceding (**No. 563**), and approved by the Powers on the 18th of the same month (**No. 564**). An account of the events which followed this communication is given in Earl Granville's despatch of 2nd October, 1880 (**No. 578**).

* See Protocol, 18th April, 1880 (**No. 564**).

No. 564.—*PROTOCOL OF CONFERENCE between the Representatives of the Powers Parties to the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), consenting to the Cession of certain Territory by the Sultan to the Prince of Montenegro in lieu of the Districts of Gusinje and Plava. Constantinople, 18th April, 1880.**

(Translation.)

PRESENT:

The Representatives of Great Britain,
of Austria-Hungary,
of France,
of Germany,
of Italy,
of Russia, and
of Turkey,

being assembled in Conference in order to consider the means of solving the difficulties which the Boundary Commission, charged with the drawing of the frontier line, in conformity with Article XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), have met with in the execution of their labours, and having taken cognizance of the annexed Memorandum containing the arrangement concluded on the ^{31st March}_{12th April}, between Turkey and Montenegro (No. 563), respecting the modifications to be made to that end in the line described by the Treaty, and having ascertained that none of the Powers parties to the said Treaty raise any objection to that arrangement, the above-named Representatives, duly authorized, have decided that the frontier in question shall be drawn as follows:—

The frontier line will start from the sea, in conformity with the line proposed by the English Commissioner, from the point V. Kruci, and will follow exactly this sketch as far as the lake. (This part of the frontier having been definitively traced, the Commission will no longer have to concern itself with it, except to cause the works to be executed relating to the placing of the landmarks.) Thence it will cross the lake in a straight line, and passing through the middle of the Gulfs

* See Note, page 2781.

of Kastrati and Hotti, it will reach by way of the summits of Mounts Kuse and Hotti, the River Zem, above a point designated on the Austrian Staff Map by the name of Serci. From that point the frontier line will follow the thalweg of the River Zem, going up as far as the foot of Mount Golieh, which, as well as the village of Selcit, shall remain to Turkey. Leaving the Zem at Selcit, the frontier line will ascend the hill of Sukotvile, and will follow the crest of the Jeznica mountain. Thence it will cross the Vermos Valley, and run towards the summit of Mount Stociza. As far as this point the maps of the Italian and Russian Commissioners will, with the exception of the point of Serci, serve as a basis. From that point, which is the extreme point on the Commissioners' map, the tracing will follow the line indicated on the initialled Austrian map, which map will serve as a basis for the delimitation to be made on the spot. Thence the frontier line will run along the ridge of the mountains, across the summits Lipovica, Zelentin, as far as the summit of Mount Visitor, whence, leaving the village of Velika to Montenegro, it will terminate at Mokra Planina, which shall remain to Turkey.

The present Protocol shall have the same authority and value as if it had been drawn up in the shape of a Convention; but it is understood that, after the Boundary Commission shall have completed its labours, the High Contracting Parties will sign a Convention sanctioning the frontier line, such as it shall have been established by the Commissioners.*

In witness whereof the above-mentioned Representatives have signed the present Protocol, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

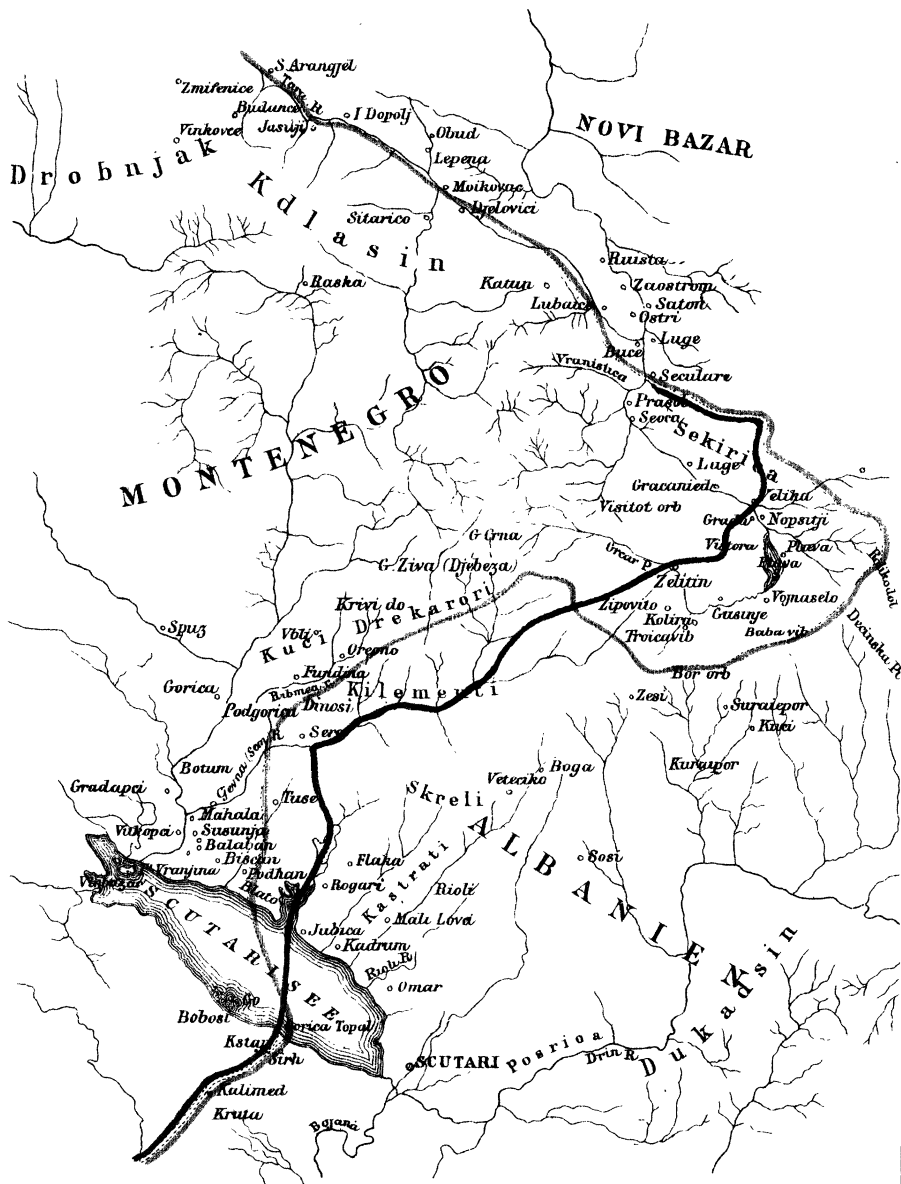
Done at Constantinople, 18th April, 1880.

(L.S.) A. H. LAYARD.
 (L.S.) V. DUBSKY.
 (L.S.) P. MONTHOLON.
 (L.S.) V. HATZFELDT.
 (L.S.) L. CORTI.
 (L.S.) ONOU.
 (L.S.) SAWAS.

* See Note, page 2954.

BOUNDARY OF MONTENEGRO.

OUTLINE MAP (REDUCED) TO ILLUSTRATE PROTOCOL OF 18 APRIL, 1880.

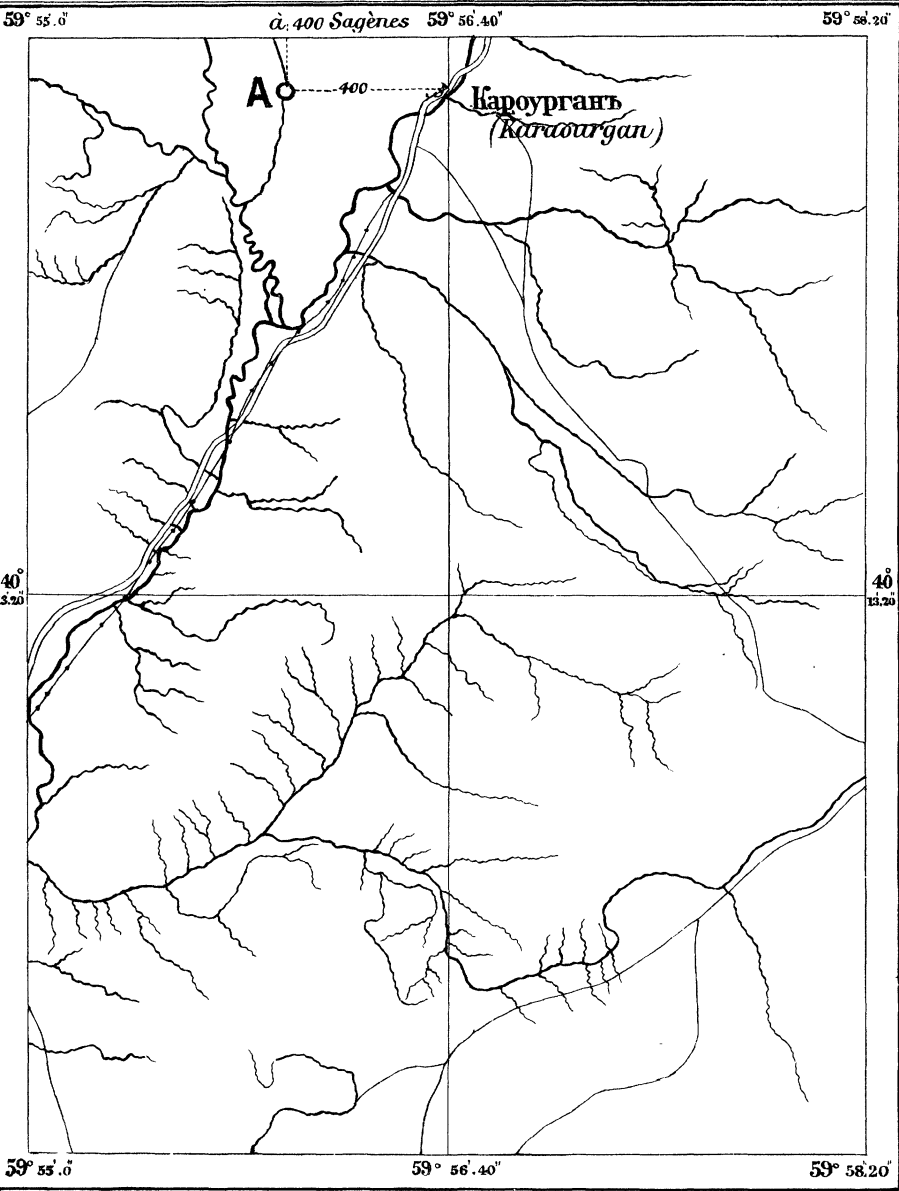


The Frontier of Berlin is indicated thus

The Modification of Constantinople

MAP
Shewing the Boundary of
MONTENEGRO
To illustrate the Protocol of
18 April 1880.

MAP
Shewing "Point West of Karaourgan"
17 May 1880.
BOUNDARY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND TURKEY
IN ASIA



L'échelle de cette carte est d'un verste à un pouce, ou 1 : 42,000.

Le point **A** sur cette carte près et à 400 sagènes à l'ouest du Méridien qui passe près du village de Karaourgan a été choisi par les Soussignés Commissaires Rasse et Ottoman.

(signé) LE GÉNÉRAL MAJOR STEBNITSKY.

LE COLONEL DE L'ÉTAT MAJOR CHÉHAB.

Seraskeriat.

Constantinople, $\frac{8}{17}$ Mai, 1880.

No. 565.—*PROTOCOL of CONFERENCE between the British, Russian, and Turkish Commissioners, respecting the Delimitation of the Russo-Turkish Frontier in Asia, and fixing the Point West of Karaourgan, in accordance with Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Stamboul, 17th May, 1880.*

(Translation.)

SITTING held at the Seraskierat at Stamboul $\frac{5}{17}$ th May, 1880.

Present:

For Great Britain—

Major-General Hamley, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Captain de Wolski.

Lieutenant J. J. Leverson.

For Russia—

Major-General Stebnitsky.

College-Assessor Emélianoff.

For Turkey—

Staff-Colonel Chéhab Bey.

Krikor Effendi.

The Russian and Ottoman Commissioners of the 1st Delimitation Commission have assembled to fix definitively the Point to the West of Karaourgan, to form the point for the termination of their labours, and the starting point for the labours of the 2nd Commission, in which, in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), the British Commissioner should also take part.

This Point having been determined and presented to the British Commissioner, General Hamley has accepted it as being in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

This Point is shown on the map drawn on the scale of one verst to an English inch, and is situated to the west of Karaourgan, 400 sagues from the meridian $59^{\circ} 56' 40''$.*

In witness whereof the present Protocol has been signed by the Commissioners of the three Powers interested.

E. B. HAMLEY.

J. STEBNITSKY.

STAFF-COLONEL CHÉHAB.

The Secretaries:

J. J. LEVERSON.

EMÉLIANOFF.

KRIKOR.

* See map.

No. 566.—*IDENTIC NOTE addressed by the Representatives of the Powers Parties to the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) to the Porte, with reference to the non-execution by Turkey of certain Articles of that Treaty. Constantinople, 11th June, 1880.*

TABLE.

Rectification of *Turco-Greek* Frontier.

Montenegrin Frontier.

Armenia :—Reforms. Protection against Circassians and Kurds.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

*Therapia, 11th June, 1880.**

THE delay which has occurred in the execution of certain of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin has led to an interchange of views between the Signatory Powers. The result of this step has been the recognition on their part that it is an object of European interest that an end should be put to this delay, and the conclusion that the union of their efforts would be the surest means of securing the objects aimed at by the Act of the 13th July, 1878 (No. 530).

Convinced of this twofold necessity, and in complete agreement with the Cabinets of Berlin, Vienna, Paris, Rome, and St. Petersburg, Her Majesty's Government have instructed me to acquaint your Excellency with the point of view from which they look at the various questions raised by the non-execution of certain clauses of the Treaty of Berlin.

Rectification of Turco-Greek Frontier.

As regards the rectification of the Turco-Greek boundary, the Porte has for some time had before it a proposal made by the Marquis of Salisbury, and which had received the assent of the other Powers, that an International Commission should proceed to the frontier provinces to determine this rectification.

Although the Government of the Sultan has pointed out the difficulty which might be encountered by such a Commission in

* Handed to the Porte on the 20th June, 1880.

the execution of the arrangement to which they were asked to agree, they have not yet given a definite reply. The Mediating Powers have consequently found themselves in the necessity of treating this silence as a refusal, and they have been obliged, as the next step, to consider the means by which the solution of the Greco-Turkish Frontier question—a solution which the Powers had in vain tried to arrive at in concert with the Sublime Porte, and which the interests both of Turkey and of Greece require—might now be secured as speedily as possible.

They have accordingly decided that their Representatives at the Court of His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor, should meet in Conference at Berlin on the 16th instant, in order to decide by a majority of votes, and with the assistance of officers possessed of the necessary technical knowledge, the line of frontier it will be best to adopt.*

They have likewise agreed that when a decision shall have been come to by the Conference, a Commission may proceed to the frontier to settle the questions of detail arising out of the general plan.

Montenegrin Frontier.†

The state of things created in another quarter by the question of the Montenegrin frontier requires, in the opinion of the Powers, more pressing attention and an immediate solution.

The Turkish authorities have failed to carry out the engagement entered into between the Porte and Montenegro, and adhered to by the Representatives of the Powers in the Protocol of the 18th April, 1880 (No. 564). They have compromised the agreement accepted by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan by allowing the Albanians to occupy certain frontier positions assigned to the Montenegrins, and a collision may at any time occur between the Montenegrins and the Albanian forces opposed to them.

The Powers, therefore, consider themselves absolutely bound to request the Government of His Imperial Majesty to state in the most explicit terms what their intentions are as regards the

* See Report of Proceedings of Technical Commission, June, 1880 (No. 567); Protocols of Conferences at Berlin, June–July, 1880 (No. 568); Award, 1st July, 1880 (No. 569); and Conventions, 24th May, 1881 (No. 584), and 2nd July, 1881 (No. 586).

† See Despatch of 2nd October, 1880, recapitulating the course of events which followed after this date (No. 578).

Montenegrin frontier, and to put into immediate execution the arrangement come to between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro (No. 563). The Powers hold the Sublime Porte responsible in advance for the grave consequences that might be produced by a further delay in giving satisfaction to the rights acquired by the Principality.*

Armenia ;—Reforms. Protection against Circassians and Kurds.

In conclusion, the attention of the Powers has been drawn to a third point.

By Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), the Sublime Porte undertook to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and administrative reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the attacks and the violence of the Circassians and Kurds, and periodically to make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers who are to superintend their application.

So far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, nothing has been done by the Sublime Porte to make known the steps which it may have taken in order to meet the stipulations of Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin; nor have any measures been adopted by the Porte for the superintendence to be exercised by the Powers.

All the Reports furnished by the Agents of the Powers show that the state of these provinces is deplorable, and Her Majesty's Government cannot admit that the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin relating to the amelioration of this state of things should remain any longer a dead letter. They are convinced that only united and incessant pressure on their part will induce the Sublime Porte to fulfil its duties in this respect. Her Majesty's Government, therefore, as one of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, must demand the complete and immediate execution of Article LXI of that Treaty, and call upon the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to state explicitly what the steps are which they have taken in order to fulfil the provisions of this Article.†

* See Arrangements, 28th January, 1881 (No. 580); 10th January, 1883 (No. 597); 29th August, 1883 (No. 603); and 21st December, 1884 (No. 605).

† This question still remains unsettled (January, 1889).

In bringing these views to the knowledge of your Excellency, I consider it my duty to call your most serious attention to the grave responsibility the Porte would incur by any fresh delay in the execution of the measures which the Powers agree in considering to be essential to the interests of the Ottoman Empire and of Europe.

I have, &c.

G. J. GOSCHEN.

[The Porte replied to this Note on the 24th June, 1880, but the accuracy of the observations made in that reply was not admitted, and on the 15th of July, Collective Notes (**No. 570**) were addressed by the Representatives of the Treaty Powers both to the Porte and to the Greek Government, interposing their mediation, and inviting those two Governments to accept a boundary line which had been unanimously agreed upon at Berlin on the 1st July, 1880 (**No. 569**). (See Protocols of Conferences of Constantinople, 10th to 24th May, 1881 (**No. 583**); Treaty, 24th May (**No. 584**); and Treaty between Turkey and Greece, 2nd July, 1881 (**No. 585**)).

No. 567.—*REPORT of the Proceedings of the Technical Commission for defining the new Frontier between Greece and Turkey. Berlin, 25th June, 1880.*

*General Sir L. Simmons to Lord Odo Russell.**

My Lord,

Berlin, 25th June, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, corrected drafts of the proceedings of the first three sittings of the Technical Commission,† which took place on the 19th, 21st, and 22nd instant.

I also forward a draft Report, as amended and signed at the fourth meeting, last night, by the Delegates of the Six Powers, which will be submitted to the meeting of the Conference about to be held this afternoon.

I also append a Map‡ on which the whole space intervening between the Greek frontier and the line proposed by his Excellency the Ambassador of France is coloured yellow.

The extent of territory within these limits is 20,650 square kilom., as to which all the Powers are agreed that it should be ceded by Turkey to Greece.

The remaining portion of the basin of the River Kalamas, up to its northern limit, tinted green, contains 970 square kilom., which represents the full extent of territory not proposed to be ceded by Turkey within the extreme limits of the 13th Protocol.

It is difficult to state the precise number of inhabitants within the territory coloured yellow, but it may, with certainty, be assumed to exceed 500,000.

I have, &c.

J. L. A. SIMMONS.

* Inclosed in a despatch from Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville, No. 47, of 25th June, 1880.

† The delegates on the Technical Commission were:—

For Great Britain :	{ General Sir Lintorn Simmons. Major Ardagh (Assistant).
„ Austria-Hungary :	{ Le Chevalier de Zwiednick-Südenhast. Colonel Baron de Ripp.
„ France :	{ Colonel Perrier. Capt. de la Ferronnays (Assistant).
„ Germany :	Colonel Blume.
„ Italy :	{ General Sironi. Major Osio (Assistant).
„ Russia :	General Bobrikof.

This Commission held six sittings between 19th and 28th June, 1880.

‡ See map.

No. 568.—PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES *between the Representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, for the Rectification of the Greek Frontier under Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Berlin, 16th June—1st July, 1880.**

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.†

PROTOCOL.

No. 1. Election of President. Formation of Secretariat. *French* Ambassador explains the views of his Government, to which the *Italian* Ambassador gives his support. *British* Ambassador states that the line should be drawn so as to relieve the *Greek*-speaking inhabitants from a Government not satisfying their sympathies and traditions, and gives his adhesion to *French* tracing, as do also the *Austrian* and *Russian* Ambassadors, *ad referendum*. Details of frontier to be settled in later meetings of Conference. Decisions of the Conference and of Technical Commission‡ to be taken by majorities.

Berlin, 16th June, 1880.

No. 2. *Austrian* Staff map adopted by Technical Commission as base of its labours. *Russian* Ambassador proposes an amendment to *French*, *English*, and *Italian* proposition, to the effect that the principle of the crests of the mountains should be adopted for the western part of the delimitation in the same way as for the eastern, following as closely as possible the *Greek* tracing, and insists upon the necessity of giving to *Greece* the territory in *Epirus*, opposite *Corfu*. *French* statement that *French* proposal is based on adherence to spirit of *Berlin* Treaty, and not so much as realization of *Hellenic* aspirations. *Austrian* Government considers *French* proposal to be in accordance with intention of *Berlin* Treaty. *Italian* speech in favour of *French* proposal. *Russian* amendment referred to Technical Commission.

Berlin, 19th June, 1880.

* The Plenipotentiaries were—

For Great Britain :	Lord Odo Russell.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Count Széchényi.
„ France :	Count de Saint-Vallier.
„ Germany :	Prince Hohenlohe v. Schillingsfürst.
„ Italy :	Count de Launay.
„ Russia :	M. de Sabourow.

† For the full text of these Protocols, in the French language, see “State Papers,” Vol. 71, pages 661 to 695.

‡ See No. 567, page 2962.

[Turco-Greek Frontier.]

PROTOCOL.

No. 3. *Turkish* proposition discussed. *Russian* Ambassador states that his Government considers it insufficient and cannot accept it. *British* Ambassador considers it to be not in conformity with Protocol 13 (No. 526) and general spirit of *Berlin* Treaty (No 530) in which view the Ambassadors of *France*, *Italy*, and *Austria* concur. *Turkish* proposition rejected by Conference. Question of navigation of war-ships in *Gulf of Arta* to be considered later. Discussion of *Greek* tracing. Ambassadors agree in thinking it exceeds the indications of *Berlin* Congress. *Greek* tracing rejected. Proceedings of Technical Commission to be laid before Conference at next sitting, when *French* proposal and *Russian* amendment will again be considered. *Russian* Ambassador expresses the desire of his Government that the ancient privileges of the *Zagoris* may be maintained. *British* and *Austrian* Plenipotentiaries will notify this to their Government, and the other Ambassadors give their adhesion. At the suggestion of the *Russian* Ambassador, *Greece* and *Turkey* to be invited to apply to the *Olympus* the system in force on their actual frontier, for the suppression of brigandage.

Berlin, 21st June, 1880.

No. 4. *Turkish* proposal making further concessions, not being in accordance with the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, is rejected by Conference. Discussion opened upon the *French* proposition and *Russian* amendment. Objections raised to latter. *Russian* Ambassador defends amendment, but ultimately consents to support the line adopted by the majority. *French* tracing brought forward at the first sitting voted unanimously. Map showing the tracing adopted to be annexed to Report of Technical Commission (No. 567). Instructions to be prepared in case it be found necessary to send Delegates to such points of the new frontier as may have to be fixed on the spot.

Berlin, 25th June, 1880.

No. 5. Commission of Delimitation not to be composed of *Turkish* and *Greek* Delegates, but to be formed exclusively of Delegates of Mediatory Powers. *Turkish* note protesting against eventual decision of Congress. Discussion respecting wording of Award.* Subsidiary questions relating to protection of Mussulmans, religious liberty, church, vakouf, and other property, navigation of Canal of *Corfu*, *Ottoman* public debt, suppression of brigandage, &c., to be recommended to consideration of Mediatory Powers. Question raised by *Russian* Ambassador with regard to neutrality of *Ionian Islands*, considered to be beyond the scope of the Conference. Berlin, 28th June, 1880.

No. 6. *Italian* request that the Petitions addressed to the Conference may be mentioned in a Protocol. Discussion. List of Petitions annexed to Protocol (Annex). Wording of note drawn up by *French* Ambassador to be sent to the Sublime Porte and to the

[Turco-Greek Frontier.]

Cabinet of *Athens*, communicating Award of Conference* brought under discussion and agreed to.

Berlin, 29th June, 1880.

- No. 7. Signature of Final Act.* Ambassadors decide that the Note to be sent to *Constantinople* and *Athens*, accompanying the Final Act, should be Collective not Identic, and agree as to its terms. *Russian* declaration respecting the successful result of the work of the Conference, and to the satisfaction of his Government at the unanimous character of the agreement arrived at. Similar expressions from other Ambassadors. The President (Prince Hohenlohe) requested to convey to the Emperor William expressions of homage from the Ambassadors, and gratitude for the hospitality shown to them. Thanks to President and to Protocolists. President's acknowledgments. Recognition of labours of Technical Commission. Closing of Conference.

Berlin, 1st July, 1880.

[For Award of 1st July, 1880, see No. 569. See also Protocols of Conferences, 10th to 24th May, 1881 (No. 583); Treaty between the Six Powers and Turkey, 24th May, 1881 (No. 584); and Treaty between Turkey and Greece, 2nd July, 1881 (No. 585).]

* See No. 569, page 2966.

No. 569.—*AWARD of the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, on the New Frontier Line to be drawn between Greece and Turkey.* Berlin, 1st July, 1880.*

(Translation.)

THE discussions which have taken place between Turkey and Greece for the rectification of their frontiers† having led to no result, the Undersigned Plenipotentiaries of the Powers called upon by the provisions of the Treaty of 13th July, 1878 (**No. 530**) to exercise their Mediation between the two States, met in Conference at Berlin, conformably to the instructions of their Governments, and after mature deliberation, acting in the spirit and in accordance with the terms of Protocol No. 13 of the Berlin Congress (**No. 526**), have unanimously adopted the following line:—

“The frontier will follow the thalweg of the Kalamas from the mouth of that river in the Ionian Sea, as far as its source in the neighbourhood of Han Kalibaki, and then the crests which form the line of separation between the basins:

“To the north, of the Voioussa, of the Haliacmon, of the Mavroneria, and their tributaries.

“To the south, of the Kalamas, of the Arta, of the Aspropotamos, and of the Salamyrias (formerly the Peneus) and their tributaries, to join the Olympus, the crest of which it will follow to its eastern extremity on the Egean Sea. This line leaves to the south the Lake of Janina and all its affluents, as well as Metzovo, which will remain to Greece.”

The Undersigned have the honour to submit to the Powers of which they are their representatives and mandataries, the present Decision, in order that they may have the goodness to approve it, and to notify it to the parties interested.

Berlin, 1st July, 1880.

HOHENLOHE.
SZÉCHÉNYI.
ST. VALLIER.
ODO RUSSELL.
LAUNAY.
SABOUROFF.

* This line is not that which was eventually adopted. See Convention of 24th May, 1881 (**No. 584**).

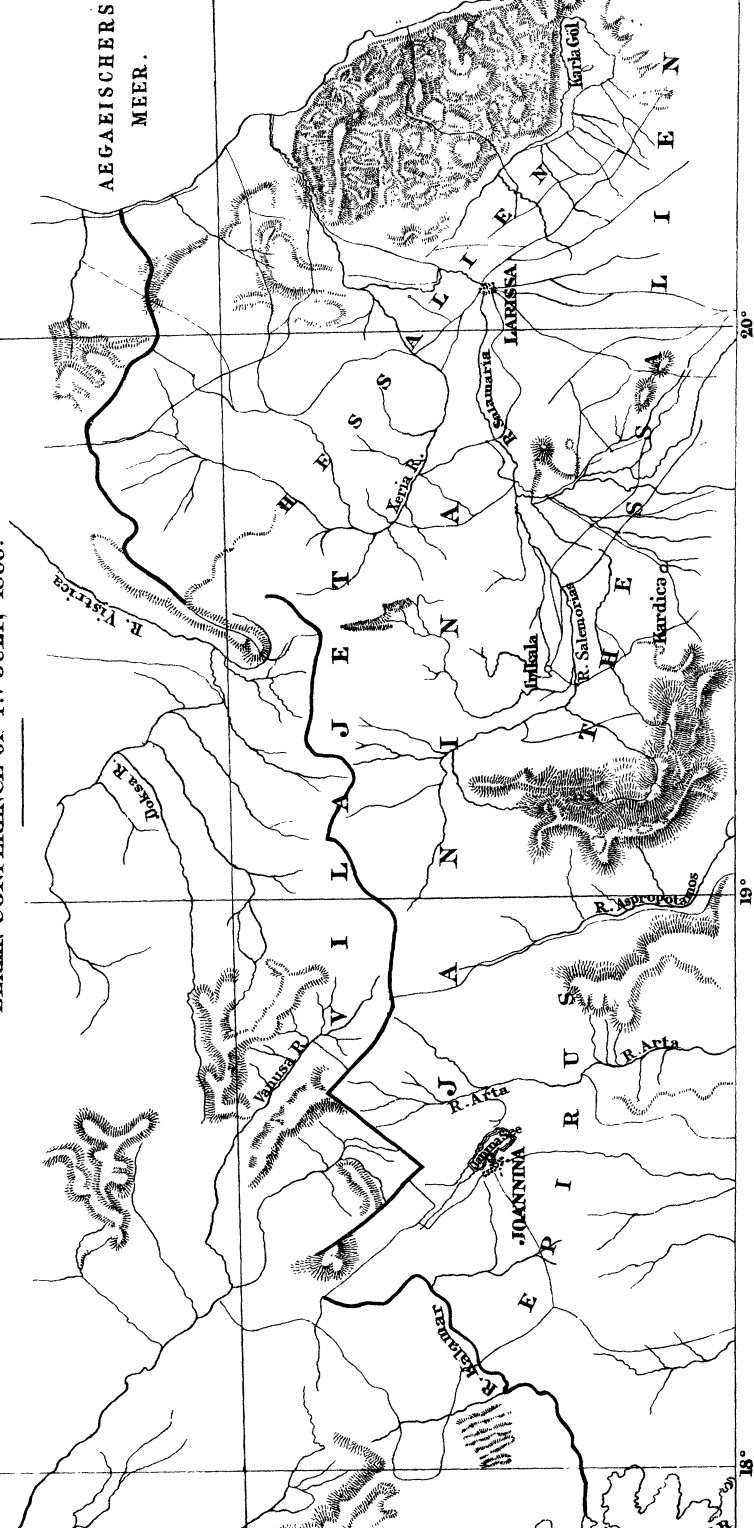
† See Protocols of Conferences, 22nd August to 17th November, 1879 (**No. 559**), page 2941

TURCO-GREEK BOUNDARY.

OUTLINE MAP (REDUCED) SHEWING AWARD

BERLIN CONFERENCE OF 1ST JULY, 1880.

The Black line indicates the proposed Frontier.



Copy of this Map in greater detail signed by the Members of the Technical Commission at Berlin 28 June 1880, was laid before Parliament with "Greece N° 3 1880

MAP
OF
TURCO-GREEK BOUNDARY
Shewing Award of Berlin Conference of
1 July 1880.

No. 570.—*COLLECTIVE NOTE* addressed by the Representatives of the Treaty Powers to the Porte and to the Greek Government,* announcing the Decision of the Conference at Berlin (**No. 526**) as to the New Turco-Greek Boundary. Constantinople, 15th July, 1880.

(Translation.)

Constantinople, 15th July, 1880.

THE Undersigned, Ambassadors or Ministers, &c., near His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, have the honour to forward to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte, the following note, by order of their Governments :—

The Congress of Berlin (**No. 528**) having indicated in its 13th Protocol (**No. 526**) the principal points of the frontier line which it considers necessary to be fixed between Turkey and Greece, the Powers have had recourse in the first instance to direct negotiations upon this basis between the two States. At two consultations (“reprises”), in the Conferences of Prevesa (**No. 543**) and of Constantinople (**No. 559**), the Turkish and Greek Commissioners, after long discussions, could only record the fact that their differences were irreconcilable. In view of these fruitless attempts, the Powers appointed by the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**) have judged it necessary to interpose their mediation.

This mediation, to be effective, should be carried out in all its completeness, and the Cabinets, in presence of the reciprocal dispositions of the two interested Powers, have prescribed to their Representatives assembled in Conference at Berlin to fix, in conformity with the general indications of the Protocol No. 13 (**No. 526**), a line which shall constitute between Greece and Turkey a good and lasting defensive frontier.

The Plenipotentiaries, after a most attentive discussion, elucidated, moreover, by the assistance of Technical Commissioners delegated by their Governments (**No. 567**), have unanimously voted, following the terms of their mandate, the line contained in the following Act which recapitulates and closes their deliberations.

* The Collective Note was presented to the Greek Prime Minister by the Representatives of the Treaty Powers at Athens on the same day.

[Here follows the Award dated 1st July, 1880 (No. 569).]

Accordingly, the Governments of Germany, of Austria-Hungary, of France, of Great Britain, of Italy, and of Russia invite the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans and the Government of His Majesty the King of the Hellenes to accept the frontier line indicated in the above document, and which the mediating Powers, assembled in Conference, have unanimously recognized as being in conformity with the spirit and letter ("termes") of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) and of the Protocol No. 13 of the Congress (No. 526).

HATZFELDT.

NOVIKOFF.

GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

CORTI.

DUBSKY.

TISSOT.

[On the 16th July, 1880, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs replied to this Note, and declared that he accepted this frontier line, in the name of the Hellenic Government. The Porte, however, in its reply to the above Collective Note dated 26th July, 1880 (No. 571), explained the reasons why it was unable to accept it; and it was not adopted. The line as ultimately agreed upon is described in the Treaty of 24th May, 1881 (No. 584).]

No. 571.—*REPLY of the Porte to the Collective Note of the Treaty Powers of 15th July, 1880 (No. 570), embodying the Decision of the Conference of Berlin on the Turco-Greek Boundary. Constantinople, 26th July, 1880.*

(Translation.)

Sublime Porte, 26th July, 1880.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, has had the honour to receive the note which their Excellencies the Ambassadors of Germany, of Russia, of Great Britain, of Italy, and of France, and the Minister of Austria-Hungary, addressed to him under date of the 15th of this month (**No. 570**), relative to the rectification of the Hellenic frontier.

By that note, their Excellencies recall attention to the direct negotiations which had been attempted at two meetings by the Turkish and Hellenic Plenipotentiaries with the view of arriving at an understanding on this question; they declare that, in the face of those fruitless attempts, the Powers designated by the Treaty of Berlin had judged it necessary to offer their mediation, and had directed their representatives assembled in Conference at Berlin to fix a frontier line between Greece and Turkey; they communicate to the Undersigned the text of the Act (**No. 569**) which recapitulated and closed the deliberations of the Plenipotentiaries, and by which the latter had submitted to their Governments the line which they had unanimously adopted, with a hope that their decision might be approved and notified to the interested parties; finally their Excellencies invite the Porte in the name of their Governments, to accept the frontier line indicated by the above-mentioned document.

The Sublime Porte has given its most serious attention to the examination of this important communication; and the more it is desirous of giving proof of its deference for the Great friendly Powers with which it signed the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), so much the more does it feel the necessity of

submitting to their just appreciation the position, as perplexing as it is painful, in which it has been placed by the Invitation which has just been addressed to it.

The Sublime Porte has no doubt that the Powers, whose sentiments of justice it recognizes, and to whom it could never attribute the intention of impairing its sovereignty, will accept with good will the observations which the Undersigned is charged to present to their Excellencies in answer to their aforesaid Note.

In signing the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) the Sublime Porte, with reference to a wish for the rectification of the Hellenic frontier in Epirus and in Thessaly, did not expect to receive from the Mediating Powers a proposition having for its object the cession of territory belonging to Albania, as well as the whole of Thessaly, that is to say, the whole of the valley of Peneus with its two slopes ("versants")—a cession which would consist of annexing to the Hellenic Kingdom a territory almost equal to the half of the actual superficial area of the Kingdom.

In the aforesaid Note their Excellencies affirm that the Powers have instructed their Plenipotentiaries assembled in Conference at Berlin to fix, in confining themselves to the general indications of Protocol No. 13 (No. 526), a line which would constitute between Greece and Turkey a good and lasting defensive frontier.

But the Sublime Porte regrets to be compelled to observe that the frontier line, which it is invited to accept, scarcely presents those conditions in so far as it is concerned. In fact, no one could attribute to the Sublime Porte the thought or the desire to see a territorial extension at the expense of another State, while the object of a good and lasting defensive line would be rather to guarantee the Sublime Porte against the possibility of like aspirations to its prejudice. But the strategic points assigned to Greece by the Conference, such as Metzovo, a position of great military importance for communication with Lower Albania, would expose the neighbouring Provinces to attacks against which the Sublime Porte would find itself without defence. On the other hand, even as a means of defence, the Sublime Porte cannot explain to itself why the Conference has adopted on the side of Epirus the thalweg of the Kalamas, whereas on the side of Thessaly instead of following

the thalweg of the Peneus, it carries the frontier line to the summits of the northern slopes of the valley.

The Sublime Porte confines itself in these few observations to that which concerns the strategic side of the frontier line proposed by the Conference. But looking at it from a political point of view, this line would present great difficulties in carrying it out, and would impose on the Sublime Porte sacrifices to which it would be impossible for it to submit. Indeed, how would it be possible for it to consent to the cession of Janina, which the Albanians, who, believing themselves, in imitation of other nationalities of the Empire, to be a distinct and not less interesting race, have from all time considered as the capital of Lower Albania, and to the possession of which they cling, as is well known, with so much obstinacy?

Is it not evident that if the Sublime Porte were to decide to sacrifice a town so important in all its bearings, it would provoke grave complications, which would compromise, perhaps, the peaceable exercise of its authority in that part of Turkey in Europe? Would it be possible for the Sublime Porte to dispossess the Albanians of certain other localities belonging to their race, and above all of the country of Tchamouri, inhabited exclusively by Albanians, of whom the majority profess the Mussulman religion?

On the side of Thessaly, the Sublime Porte finds itself in the face of difficulties not less grave. There is Larissa, a populous and important town, three-fourths inhabited by Mussulmans, and surrounded by a series of Mussulman districts and villages. Would it be possible that, contrarily to the solicitude manifested by the Christian Powers of Europe in favour of a Christian Kingdom, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, the Khalif and Chief of the Mussulman religion, should go so far as to sacrifice a great town essentially Mussulman, and displease not only the inhabitants who implore at this moment the Imperial protection, but all Mussulmans in general? Besides, if Larissa were ceded to Greece, the Mussulman population would emigrate from it, for were it to be made part of the Greek Kingdom, there would not remain in the Palace more than ten families, and the downfall and ruin of a town, now populous and prosperous, would not be slow in being complete.

That which shows that the political side of the rectification of the frontiers between Greece and Turkey merits special considera-

tion is that M. Waddington himself, First Plenipotentiary of France, who, in the midst of the Congress, took the initiative of this proposal, and did not hesitate when, later on in his capacity as President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, he proposed a frontier-line for the acceptance of the other Powers, to exclude from the territory to be ceded to Greece the town of Janina and the country of Tchamouri, and that if he had given his opinion of that exclusion, it would, without doubt, have been in consideration of the complications which the well known resistance of the Albanians would produce.

The Sublime Porte is bound to believe that the other Powers cannot but share upon this point the views of M. Waddington, and that none of them desire the forced annexation to the Hellenic Kingdom of a Mussulman population against its will, and especially when it is so numerous that such an annexation would become a source of danger and troubles.

In submitting to their Excellencies and to the Chargé d'Affaires of Austria-Hungary the preceding considerations, the Undersigned is authorized to declare to them that the Sublime Porte, out of deference for the friendly Powers, is not the less disposed, in spite of all, to make to the Hellenic Kingdom some concessions, and to come to an understanding with them, with the view to hastening a satisfactory and definite settlement of this question. But on the other hand, counting with confidence on the sentiments of justice of the Powers, who have never ignored its rights of Sovereignty, it expects that they will not less refuse to recognize its incontestable right to take part in the fixing of the definitive frontier-line of Greece, on the same grounds that it has taken part in the determination of those of Servia and of Montenegro, and that they will be willing to appreciate thoroughly the reasons which have placed it under the necessity of insisting on the preservation of Janina, Larissa, and Metzovo, and of certain localities inhabited by a numerous Mussulman population.

Finally, the Undersigned is charged by his Government to express to their Excellencies and to the Chargé d'Affaires of Austria-Hungary the hope that the observations contained in the present Note will be taken by their Governments into favourable consideration, and by the intervention of their Excellencies and of the Chargé d'Affaires of Austria-Hungary, to request the mediating Powers, to be good enough to authorize their

Representatives at Constantinople to come to an understanding with the Sublime Porte, with a view to facilitate the negotiations as well upon the definitive fixing of a frontier-line as upon the minor points and the details which belong to this question.

The Undersigned, &c.

ABÉDINE.

[The Representatives of the Treaty Powers at Constantinople replied to this Note on the 25th August, 1880, by a Collective Note, in which it was stated that the decision of the Conference of Berlin having been arrived at after mature deliberation, and after a careful examination of the different lines successively proposed by the Turkish and Greek Governments, the Mediating Powers could not consent to a reopening of a discussion on the subject; that they could only adhere to the decision of the Conference; that they approved of it; and that they recommended it to the Sublime Porte, as being in conformity with the Treaty and Protocol of Berlin (**Nos. 526, 530**).

On the 18th December, 1880, the French Government proposed that the Six Powers, instead of proceeding by means of simple mediation, should settle the question of the Turco-Greek Boundary by acting as arbitrators. This was agreed to by the British Government, on condition that both Turkey and Greece would agree to the arbitration, and would abide by the Award, but the proposal did not meet with general success, and was withdrawn on the 17th January, 1881. The German Government were then requested by the British Government to submit a proposal on the subject, and it did so. Various meetings were then held between the Ambassadors at Constantinople, and Collective Notes were exchanged by them and the Porte and the Greek Government until the 2nd May, 1881, on which day the Porte accepted a line which had been proposed by the Treaty Powers. (*See "State Papers," Vol. 72, page 405.*)

Conferences were then held from the 10th to the 24th May, 1881 (**No. 583**), and on the latter day, a Convention was signed between the Treaty Powers and the Porte for the Settlement of the Frontier between Greece and Turkey (**No. 584**).]

No. 572.—*PROTOCOL of Conference between the British and Russian Commissioners, respecting the Delimitation of the Territory of Khotour, with the object of fixing the Frontier Line of that Territory in conformity with Art. LX of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Sary Kamish, 27th July, 1880.*

(Translation.)

Present :

For Great Britain—

Major-General Sir Edward Hamley, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Captain Everett (Assistant).

For Russia—

Major-General Zelenoy.

Colonel Koulberg (Assistant).

General Sir Edward Hamley and General Zelenoy, after having exchanged their powers, have carefully examined that part of the work of the mixed Anglo-Russian Commission which concerns the territory of Khotour alone. That piece of work consists of a tracing of the frontier line made upon two maps on the scale of $\frac{1}{253440}$, an English reduction from the large official map $\frac{1}{730560}$, by the hands of the Commissioners of the Anglo-Russian Mixed Commission; General Kemball for Great Britain and Colonel Zelenoy (the same General Zelenoy, the signer of this Protocol) for Russia.

General Sir E. Hamley and General Zelenoy declare, General Zelenoy from his own knowledge, and General Sir E. Hamley from evidence shown by the said maps and the precise explanations given by General Zelenoy, that the two Delegates of the said former Commission were agreed with regard to the definitive frontier line of Khotour, of which the tracing made by them is shown on the two English reductions above mentioned from the official map.

The task of the former Commission being, not the partial delimitation of the Valley of Khotour, but the entire Turco-Persian frontier, of which the delimitation of Khotour only presented a very small part, it naturally followed that, in this continuity of the entire frontier, it was sufficient to determine

only all the frontier west of the Valley of Khotour, and its two extremities by which that frontier of Khotour was connected with the rest of the entire Turco-Persian frontier.

However, considering the question of Khotour by its history as a separate question, the said Commission is agreed upon the frontiers north and south of the Valley of Khotour. Consequently all the frontier line of the territory of Khotour traced by General Kemball and Colonel Zelenoy upon the said English reductions from the large official map, follows the following line, actually drawn by the undersigned on the map annexed to the present Protocol.

The frontier on the north, starting from the Bere-i-Kurgui Mountains, proceeds in a general direction towards the west, reaches the mountains Guerdi-Béranan and Bere Gevran, and continues as far as the summit of Mount Khydyr-Baba, where the northern frontier joins the western frontier of the territory of Khotour. During the whole of this course, the northern frontier forms the line of watershed of the left affluents of the Khotour-tchai, from the waters of Beledgik on the west, as far as the waters of the Bere-i-Kurgui Mountains, on the east, with the right affluents of Tchementchyk over the same space.

The western frontier starts from the same summit of the Khydyr-Baba Mountains, proceeds in a general direction towards the south, by the Kemarouk Guedouk, and Tépé Avristan Mountains, as far as the left bank of the Khotour-tchai, leaving to Persia all the valley of Beledgik, and to Turkey the valley of Kan-i-man-yourl, then remounting the left bank of the Khotour-tchai to the north of the main road, the frontier crosses the road and the river opposite the mountains which are formed on the left bank of the Schiwa-resch stream; follows the crest of those mountains, and rejoining, by the line of the watershed of Khotour and Alback-tchai, the Mir-Omar Mountains, leaves to Persia the defile and village of Razi, the village of Gharatil, and the village of Panamerik, and to Turkey the village of Kevlik.

The southern frontier starts from the Mir-Omar Mountains, proceeds in a general direction towards the east by the summit of Mount Sourowa, as far as the western extremity of the Kerpilan Mountains, following from west to east, first the watershed of Khotour and Alback-tchai, and then of Khotour-tchai and Dere-Dishivan.

[Turco-Persian Boundary. Khotour.]

The map annexed is a copy of the Official Map on the scale of $\frac{1}{73050}$, called "Carte identique," of which an identic official and certified copy is in the possession of each of the four interested Parties.* The line described in this Protocol, and drawn on the annexed map in green, is the tracing of General Kemball and Colonel Zelenoy, taken from the two copies of the English reduction, on the scale of the official Identic Map.

The Undersigned Generals are of opinion that the frontier above described ought to be marked on the ground by a Turco-Persian Commission, assisted, if Great Britain and Russia should find it convenient, by English and Russian Officers; and, moreover, they recommend, as an indispensably practical measure, that the functions of this future Commission should be limited solely to the marking of this line on the ground, without any discussion of the rights of the two neighbouring Powers.

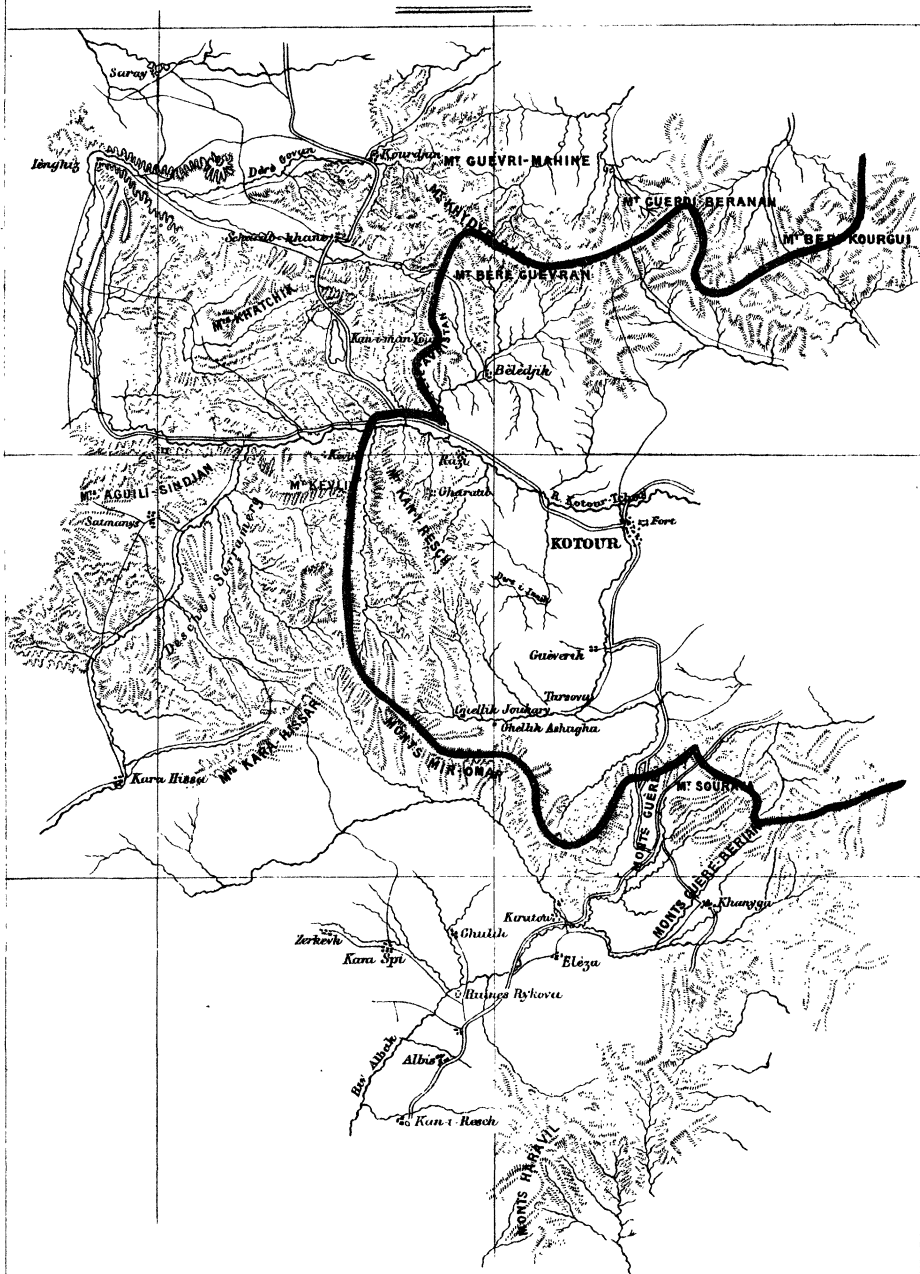
Signed at Sary Kamish, $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁵/₇th July, 1880.

E. B. HAMLEY.

A. ZELENOY.

* Great Britain, Russia, Persia, and Turkey.

MAP
(ON A REDUCED SCALE)
shewing the delimitation of the
TERRITORY OF KOTOUR.



*Copie de la carte officielle turc, identique à l'échelle 750/20
représentant en vert la ligne frontière Turco-Persane du
territoire de Kotour, comme elle l'a été tracée par le Général Komball
et le Colonel Zeleny, de leurs propres mains, sur deux exemplaires
de la réduction anglaise à l'échelle 25340, de la dite carte officielle.*

Certifié comme conforme à l'original, de deux dits exemplaires.

MAP
Shewing the Delimitation of the
TERRITORY OF KOTOUR
27 July 1880.

No. 573.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners* appointed to define the Limits between Turkey and Russia in Asia, in accordance with Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), and with the Agreement signed between the Marquis of Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff at Berlin on the 12th July, 1878 (No. 529) (Line of the Alashkerd). 7th June—11th August, 1880.*

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.†

No. 1. Opening of Commission. Verification of Full Powers. General Hamley, *British* Commissioner, chosen President, and M. Emélianoff and Lieutenant Leverson appointed Secretaries. Speech of *Russian* Commissioner, General Stebnitsky. Frontier line to be drawn from *Karaourgan* by *Medjingaert* to *Kessa Dagh*. Reference to Protocol No. 18 of *Berlin* Congress (No. 528). Line already accepted by *British* and *Russian* Governments. Reference to Art. LVIII of Treaty of *Berlin* (No. 530). Tracing agreed upon between Count Schouvaloff and the Marquis of Salisbury to serve as the official basis for the labours of the Commission. Speech of *Turkish* Commissioner, Colonel Djévad Bey :—

* The Commissioners at Constantinople were—

For Great Britain :	Major-General Sir E. B. Hamley. Captain de Wolski, R.E. Lieutenant J. J. Leverson, R.E.
„ Russia :	General Stebnitsky, Conseiller de Cour. M. Emélianoff, Conseiller de Cour.
„ Turkey :	Colonel Djévad Bey. Major Ishak Bey.

The Commissioners on the ground were—

For Great Britain :	General Sir E. B. Hamley. Captain de Wolski, R.E. Lieutenant J. J. Leverson, R.E.
„ Russia :	General Zelenoy. Colonel Koulberg. Captain Zarrieff. Captain Solmatcheff.
„ Turkey :	Colonel Djévad Bey. Major Ishak Bey. Major Ibrahim Bey. Gabriel Effendi (Noradounghian).

† For the full text of these Protocols in the French language, with a translation in English, see “Parliamentary Paper” No. 10, (1881).

PROTOCOL.

Refusal to accept *Russian Map* as the basis for discussion, as it throws no light on the question of *Medjingaert*. No mention made in Protocol or in Treaty of *Berlin* of two *Medjingaerts*. Submits another map upon which the proposed frontier line is drawn to the north of the line traced by General Stebnitsky, passing midway between the two *Medjingaerts*, Lower and Upper. Speech of General Hamley: expresses his views in favour of the *Lower Medjingaert* being accepted. General Stebnitsky offers explanation, but expresses his readiness to make a concession and to accept the *Ottoman* line. Djévad Bey insists that the Congress of *Berlin* intended to refer to the Commission the choice of *Medjingaert* as a question of detail. General Stebnitsky is of a contrary opinion. General Hamley suggests to the *Ottoman* Commissioners the acceptance of General Stebnitsky's concession, on condition that the boundary line leaves the village of *Kara-Kilissa* and its lands to *Turkey*. General Stebnitsky consents to General Hamley's proposal. Colonel Djévad Bey repeats that he does not find the official map sufficiently exact to determine the direction of the line, and states that he does not consider General Stebnitsky's proposal a concession. General Hamley again advises the *Ottoman* Commissioner to accept the *Russian* concessions. Colonel Djévad Bey accepts them for his own part, but declares that he must consult the President of the General Staff before stating anything definite. Captain de Wolski draws on the Map of the *Ottoman* Commissioner the new lines which should serve as a basis, and presents them to the Commission. The Commissioners admit in principle that the frontier line to be marked out on the ground should not separate the villages from their lands.

Constantinople, 7th June, 1880.

- No. 2. Major Ishak Bey presented as Assistant *Turkish* Commissioner. Colonel Djévad Bey declares that his Government accepts the line adopted by him, under reserve, at the last sitting. Details of frontier line discussed, starting from a point west of *Karaourgan*, and passing by *Medjingaert*, the River *Araxes*, *Kara-Kilissa*, *Sathan*, *Kessa-Dagh*, where the frontier touches the west of the mountains which forms the water parting between the *Araxes* and the *Mourad-sou*. Line described on three maps made to the scale of one verst to one *English* inch or $\frac{1}{42000}$. Frontier line to follow this drawing absolutely, except in places where with slight modifications it may be found necessary, so as not to separate villages from their lands, or to give preference to a natural line. In cases where the Commissioners are not unanimous in favour of a particular modification, they will necessarily follow, in that part of the boundary, the line as it is described on the charts signed by them. It is understood that the

[Turco-Russian Boundary in Asia.]

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boundary marks should be executed by the two neighbouring Governments, *Russia* and *Turkey*.

Constantinople, 9th June, 1880.

- No. 3. General Stebnitsky presents to the Commission the three maps in the preceding Protocol, made upon the scale of one verst to an *English* inch or $\frac{1}{42000}$ and on each of which is drawn the line agreed upon at the previous meeting. Maps examined and signed by the Commissioners, and one copy retained by each of them for use on the frontier. Preliminary labours terminated; Commission to proceed now to the frontier. Thanks of President to General Stebnitsky for the conciliatory spirit shown by him during the discussions. Endorsed by Colonel Djérad Bey.

Constantinople, ^{31st May}
12th June, 1880.

- No. 4. General Zelenoy produces letter appointing him *Russian* Commissioner. General Hamley again elected President. Gabriel Effendi (Noradounghian) presented as *Turkish* Assistant Commissioner, and added to the Secretariat. Course of procedure. *Russian* Commissioner proposes to divide the topographical labours into two sections: one between *Karaourgan* and *Medjingaert*, and the other from *Medjingaert* to the *Araxes*, and that the former should be entrusted to Captain de Wolski, Captain Žavrieff, and Major Ishak Bey, and the latter to Lieutenant Leverson, Captain Solmatcheff, and Major Ibrahim Bey. Their duties described. A long discussion ensues on question of placing permanent boundary marks. General Zelenoy ultimately states that he would require six days to make preparations for the construction of the boundary marks, but that, after that time, he would visit, with his colleagues, the frontier line, and would entrust the supervision of the boundary marks to one of his assistants. Agreement arrived at to hold next meeting at *Upper Medjingaert*, on the ^{19th}
^{31st} July, or sooner if the *Russian* Commissioner could finish his preparations before that date, and that the Commission should afterwards proceed to *Kara Kilissa*, and then into the Valley of *Alashkerd*. Commission then decide to meet again in the afternoon of the same day, and to proceed to the ground in order to fix the point to the west of *Karaourgan*. At the afternoon meeting, the *Russian* Commissioner expresses his regret at being unable to proceed into the Valley of *Alashkerd* until after the boundary marks have all been fixed in the valley of *Araxes*. General Hamley and *Turkish* Commissioner press General Zelenoy, but without avail, to go to the Valley of *Alashkerd* to define the boundary there, and then to return to the Valley of *Araxes*, in order to inspect the boundary marks, instead of remaining at *Sary Kamish* with nothing to do there during the construction of the said marks. Further discussion

[Turco-Russian Boundary in Asia.]

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on construction of boundary marks. General Zelenoy decides to return to *Sary Kamish*, and to inform himself of the resources at his disposal. General Hamley remarks that it is time for the Commission to proceed to the ground in order to fix definitively the point west of the village of *Karaourgan*, before sunset; but as General Zelenoy says he must return the next morning to *Sary Kamish*, the discussion is adjourned.

Karaourgan, 21st July, 1880.

[A Conference was held independently by the British and Russian Commissioners at *Sary Kamish* on July 27th, 1880, with the object of fixing the frontier-line of *Khotour* (No. 572).]

No. 5. Speech of President:—Object of Commission: 1st, to mark the boundary between *Karaourgan* and *Kessa Dagħ*; and 2nd, that from *Kessa Dagħ* to the point of junction of the old frontier. The 2nd section of the frontier line following, according to the Treaty of *Berlin* the water parting, presents no difficulty to the Commission, and there is no necessity for marking it out on the ground. With regard to the 1st section, the President asks the Commission to come to a definite decision respecting it, and suggests that the Protocols of the Commission and a final Act would be sufficient, with the designation on the Map and the observations taken on the ground, to fix definitively this part of the frontier. General Zelenoy agrees with the President as to there being no necessity to mark on the ground the boundary from *Kessa Dagħ* to the point of junction of the old frontier. Should any unforeseen difficulty arise respecting the passes, after the departure of the British Commissioners, they could be settled between the Russian and Turkish Commissioners. British and Turkish Commissioners bear testimony to accuracy of Russian Maps, on the scale of two versts to an English inch. General Hamley explains that no difficulty could arise with regard to the passes in a military point of view, as they are almost inaccessible and covered with snow during the greater part of the year, and that the water parting would be a sufficient description of the frontier. He explains the course adopted by the Commissioners, who were appointed to trace the Bulgarian frontier with regard to passes.* The Turkish Commissioner states that he would have preferred that the Commissioners should have proceeded to *Kessa Dagħ* and visited the passes, but that he yields to the opinions of his colleagues and will not insist upon it. Conciliatory spirit manifested by Russian and Turkish Commissioners with a view to a satisfactory settlement of the question. Decision of Commissioners that the Commission will fix at the next day the line from *Karaourgan* to the *Araxes*, and that having done this,

* See page 2874.

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they will proceed to the village of *Kara Kilissa* to examine the ground in the neighbourhood of the frontier line beyond the *Araxes* as far as the *Kessa Dag*h by a topographical section, composed of Captains de Wolski and Solmatcheff and Major Ibrahim Bey. Haut Medjingaert, 30th July, 1880.

- No. 6. The members of the topographical section having terminated their labours and made their reports to their respective Commissioners, the latter are in a position to declare definitively the frontier line between *Karaourgan* and the *Araxes*. Colonel Djévad Bey presents to the Commission a sketch upon which is drawn a frontier line modified in accordance with the reports of its assistants, and proposes its acceptance. The changes are suggested with the object of preserving to the village of *Bas Medjingaert* part of their lands situated to the east and north-west of the village which are absolutely necessary to sustain life, and are of no strategic importance. Land offered to *Russia*, as compensation, lying in the angle between the *Araxes* and the *Mamasch-Déré*. General Zelenoy states his reasons for objecting to the proposal, and says that there exists a *Russian* village, for example, that of *Karaourgan*, which is in the same condition. General Hamley supports the proposal of the *Turkish* Commissioner so far as the lands situated to the north-west of *Bas Medjingaert* are concerned, and states that he would express the same views in the event of any *Russian* village being separated from its lands. After further discussion, Colonel Djévad Bey abandons his demand for the lands to the east of *Bas Medjingaert*, and consents to re-draw the line so as to leave to *Russia* the crests which command the valley. General Zelenoy accepts the latter proposition, but demands as compensation that the line shall pass by the summit of *Mont Akh-Baba*. Colonel Djévad Bey explains that these lands belong to *Bas Medjingaert* and that they are covered with wood. He adds that each tree is now of great value to *Turkey* since the forest of *Soghanli* has been ceded to *Russia*, and proposes to General Zelenoy that he should claim compensation from other lands. Commission suspend their sitting in order to examine the ground near *Mont Akh-Baba*. On their return, General Zelenoy consents to leave to *Turkey* the valley to the north-west of *Bas Medjingaert* on preserving to *Russia* the crests which command it, and asks, by way of compensation, the land near *Karaourgan* on the left bank of the River *Chan Sou*, to the south of the frontier line adopted at *Constantinople*, and which belongs to that village. This proposition is accepted. The new line between *Karaourgan* and *Araxes* is then drawn upon a *Russian* Map, to the scale of one verst to an *English* inch. The frontier line between *Kessa Dag*h and the former *Russo-Turkish* frontier is also traced on another map to the scale of two versts to an *English* inch, which

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latter chart is then signed by the Commissioners. General Zelenoy promises to cause more copies of their two maps to be prepared before the next meeting, with the frontier line traced upon them, so that each Commissioner may send copies to his Government after discussion. Next meeting agreed to be held at *Kara Kilissa* on the 7th August.

Haut Medjingaert, 31st July, 1880.

- No. 7. The President invites discussion on the frontier line between the *Araxes* and the *Kessa Dagh*. The *Turkish* Commissioner proposes acceptance of the line traced by the topographical section. He demands also that *Tchala hana Kischlak* should be left to *Turkey*, since it belongs to the inhabitants of the village of *Kara Kilissa*, and indispensable for the sheltering of their flocks in winter. General Zelenoy expresses regret at not being able to agree to this latter proposal. He points out that *Tchala hana Kischlak* is far from the frontier, and that it is left, by the section, to *Russia*. He also points out that *Kischlak-akh-Medjed*, the property of the village of *Sathan*, is left to *Turkey*. Colonel Djévad Bey does not insist on his demand with reference to *Kischlak*. The President accordingly declares that he accepts the line adopted by his colleagues, and announces that the work of the delimitation of the frontier between *Russia* and *Turkey* from *Karaourgan* to the former frontier of *Russia*, which was the task assigned to the Commission, is about to receive its definitive solution. He then invites the Secretariat to prepare the Final Act describing the frontier, and the Protocols, in three copies, to be read, adopted, and signed at the next meeting, and expresses a hope that Captains Zavrieff and Solmatcheff, Assistants to the *Russian* Commissioner, will take care that the maps of the frontier to be annexed to the Act are ready.

Kara-Kilissa, 7th August, 1880.

- No. 8. The Commissioners attach their signatures and seals to the three copies of the Final Act and to the maps annexed, one copy of each of which is handed by the President to each Commissioner. A list of the names of the villages, streams, mountains, and hills taken textually from the *Russian* Maps annexed to the Act, with their pronunciation in *Turkish*, and orthography, is annexed to the Protocol. Thanks expressed to General Hamley for his services as President, and to officers of the Commission.

Kara Kilissa, 11th August, 1880.

No. 574.—*ACT fixing the Frontier in Asia, between Russia and Turkey, from Karaourgan to the former Frontier of Russia, in accordance with Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (Line of the Alashkerd). Kara Kilissa (Passin),*
30th July
11th August, 1880.*

(Translation.)

THE Congress of Berlin having stipulated in Article LVIII of the Treaty concluded the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ July, 1878 (**No. 530**), that from a point to the west of Karaourgan (**No. 565**), the frontier running near Medjingaert, will continue in a straight line towards the summit of Mount Kassa-dagh and along the line of the watershed between the affluents of the Arax on the north, and the Mouradsou on the south, as far as the former frontier of Russia: and in view of Protocol 18 of the Congress of Berlin (**No. 528**), wherein it was proposed, and the proposal adopted, to submit the more precise tracing of the line of the Alashkerd to a Military Commission composed of a British officer, a Russian officer, and a Turkish officer (**No. 529**): their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the Emperor of all the Russias, and the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, have to that effect named for their Commissioners, as follows:

Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, &c., Major-General Sir Edward Bruce Hamley;

His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, Major-General Alexandre Zelenoy;

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Colonel Ahmed Djévad Bey;

Who, furnished with their powers and instructions, have met in Commission at Kara Kilissa this day, and after having gone over the frontier and the localities which form the object of the discussion, have fixed the frontier between Russia and Turkey from Karaourgan to the former frontier of Russia, as follows:

ART. I. The frontier starts from a point west of and near to the village of Karaourgan, designated on the map by the letter

* This Act was signed in French, and a version of it in that language is given in the "State Papers," Vol. 72, page 1324.

A and the Point No. 0, at 400 sagues from the meridian $59^{\circ} 56' 40''$ (No. 565), and following a south-easterly direction arrives at the little summit designated on the map by the Point No. I. Thence it runs along in the same direction, passes by the summit of two hillocks, and descends as far as the Karaourgan-sou, which it reaches at the point where that river is joined by the Kimlün-sou. It follows the thalweg of the Karaourgan-sou, going down the river for a distance of about 200 sagues, then it turns to the left, crosses the high road between Karaourgan and Ziwin at Point II, and ascends the course of the rivulet which runs from the south-east to the north-west, and which empties itself into the Karaourgan-sou quite close to the said Point II, as far as the place where the road from Karaourgan to Medjingaert crosses it, then the frontier turns to the south and ascends by a little ravine to a defile marked by the Point No. 1, where it rejoins the above-mentioned road. This point is situated to the north-north-west of, and at nearly 400 sagues from, the ruins of the village of Altun-Boulagh.

The frontier line then runs towards the north-east and passes by the crests of two hills to the summit of a third, indicated by No. 2. It goes then towards the south-east, and passing in a straight line across two hills, descends to a defile and turns to the south-south-east so as to ascend the summit designated by the Point III, and which is at a distance of about 200 sagues to the west of the summit of Aguiiliar-tapa-si. Thence it passes in a straight line to the summit of Aguiiliar-tapa-si, runs towards the north-east, and descends as far as a little hillock, then it turns towards the north and runs in a straight line as far as a jutting out rock. It winds round this rock (Point No. 3) which is left to Russia, turns towards the east, and running in a straight line by a summit reaches a second summit (Point No. 4). Thence it takes a southerly direction, and going round the foot of the steep slopes of the Duvé Boinou mountains, leaves on one side these mountains to Russia, and on the other the ruins of the village of Djoguëni to Turkey.

The frontier after passing two hillocks, arrives at the summit designated by the No. 5, then it runs, almost in a straight line, towards the east, just touching the ridge of the steep slopes of Kara-Tachine-Bachi at Point No. IV, before crossing the ravine the head of which commences at the village of Upper Medjingaert. Point No. IV is situated on the road between the

villages of Lower and Upper Medjingaert, the former of which is left to Turkey, and the latter (Upper Medjingaert) to Russia. Thence it runs along the ridge of the above-mentioned steep slopes, crosses in a straight line a large ravine which runs from the north-east to the south-west, and gains the summit, Point No. V, which is situated to the north-north east of Mount Akh-Baba, then it follows in a south-easterly direction the crest of a prominent spur across the Zagaf Kharaba-goudoud so as to arrive at a hillock (Point No. 6) which commands the vale of Pozson-gourdi, passes towards the south in a straight line to a little summit (Point No. 7) situated between the vale of Pozson-gourdi and the Soulondara, prolongs itself in the same direction, descends as far as the rivulet just mentioned, the course of which it follows down stream, then turns again towards the south and ascends as far as a summit, Point D and No. 8, afterwards extending in a straight line and reaching the summit No. VI. At that point it turns towards the east and reaches another little summit, then it runs to the south-east in a straight line as far as a Point (No. 9) upon the crest of a steep rock situated in the angle formed by two ravines, at the head of one of which is situated the village of Upper Islamsar, while the other is named Zigarette-dara, so that the village of Upper Islamsar is left to Russia, and Lower Islamsar to Turkey. From the Point No. 9 the frontier line runs towards the south-east and passes in a straight line through the Points Nos. 10 and 11 as far as Point No. VII, which is situated on the ridge of the heights on the right bank of the Mamash-dara, and at a distance of 800 sages to the south of a large white tomb quite close to the ruins of the village Kischlak-Mamash. Thence it runs along in the same direction as far as the Mamash-dara, turns to the right, that is to say, towards the south, and follows the course of that rivulet down stream as far as its confluence with the Araxe (Point G, No. VIII), then it descends the thalweg of this latter river as far as Point H, which is situated in a bend of the stream.

At the Point H the frontier line leaves the Araxe, ascends over a little eminence on the right bank, designated by the Point No. IX, extends towards the south, and then follows the crest of the spur which is the line of watershed between the Karanlik-dara and the Sudlu-dara, as far as the summit of Mount Taschli-tépé (Point No. 12), thence it turns towards the

south-east, leaving the ruins of the village of Akh Metchet to Turkey, and passes in the same direction (south-east) by a line of heights until it reaches the letter I and the Point No. X, which is situated upon the ridge of the Tatlu-guni-bachi mountains.

Following thence the ridge of those mountains in an easterly direction the frontier passes by Sâdeïne-tarlassenine-bachi (Point No. 13) and Boyouk-gunei-baschininé-yanenda-ki-tépé (Point No. 14) and arrives at letter J, Point XI, which is situated upon that ridge at 300 sâgenes to the south-west of the south-western rocky crest of the summit Oküz-outschourantaschi, then it descends to the south-east, following a horizontal course midway up the side of the slope of the plateau of Yatagan-baschi, as far as the road (Point No. 15), going from the village of Sagtan to Kischlak-Jégoun-Hassan, follows that road for a distance of 300 sâgenes, and passes in a straight line bearing from north-east to south-west as far as the main road from Kara Kilissa to Başheui (Point No. XII).

Thence the frontier runs in a straight line, leaving the village of Kara Kilissa to Turkey and that of Sagtan to Russia, as far as a Point (No. 16) upon the main road which leads from the village of Sagtan to that of Alijakrak. This point is 750 sâgenes to the south-east of Sagtan. Thence it continues the line and ascends the course of the Katchan-dara as far as its source, then, still in a straight line, it mounts to the summit of Memoi-tapa (Point No. XIII and letter M), then it follows the line of heights to the east and reaches the summit Akh-pounar (No. 17). At that place it turns towards the south-south-east and passes along a succession of little ridges and defiles as far as a Point (No. 18), situated upon the road between the villages of Gozan, on the Russian side, and Magaradjik, on the side of Turkey. This point is to be found in a defile 50 sâgenes north of Gül-tapa. The frontier follows the above-mentioned road for a distance of 400 sâgenes, then it descends a ravine in a south-easterly direction, and again ascends to the Point No. XIV, situated on the road between the villages of Aiger-Bougor and Gozan, at a distance of 525 sâgenes to the west of the summit of a hillock which directly overlooks the village of Gozan to the south-west, then it crosses the plane separating the lands belonging to the village of Aiger-Bougor which is left to Turkey, from those of the village of Gozan, belonging to Russia, and descends in a

straight line to the Kaïnardja-sou (Point No. 19), then it follows the course of that river, down stream, for a distance of nearly 120 sagues, as far as the ruin, Kele-maidane, ascends again as far as the ridge Tchik-baba (Point No. 20) and, passing by a summit, reaches that of Djirid-tapa (Point No. XV), then it turns to the east, descends the ridge of a spur which runs almost in a semicircle, passes thence by the Point No. 21, which is situated upon the road running from the village of Ortakala, to that of Aiger Bougar, and descends the dried-up bed of a stream as far as its junction with the Orta-kala-sou (letter Q, Point No. XVI).

The frontier line then ascends the course of the latter stream, leaving the village of Tchermali to Turkey and the ruins of a village to Russia, as far as its confluence with the Dali-kaya-dérési and the Kaplan-dara. It ascends a spur between the two last-mentioned streams as far as a summit (Point No. 22), turns then towards the south and attains the summit, letter S, Point XVII, which is situated on the great chain of the watershed between the tributaries of the Araxe on one side and those of the Mourad-sou on the other. Point S and No. XVII is the final point of the frontier line from Karaourgan to the Kessah-dagh.

Starting from Point S, the frontier follows the line of the watershed between the Araxe and its tributaries, and the Mourad-sou and its tributaries in a general direction towards the east, and, according to the map of the Russian Topographical Office (bearing the number II) drawn on a scale of $\frac{1}{84000}$, passing to the south of the summit of Mount Dali Kaia, by the summit where rise the rivulets Zeidé and Ava Kouri, by the summits of Mount Boz-dagh and of Mount Kouchguell, by the summit of Mount Tchoukhour-tchan to the summits of Mounts Ketchedji and Tchamtcha-dagh, and as far as the summit of Mount Merméré, arriving at last at the summit of Mount Tendourek, where the new frontier between Russia and Turkey joins the former frontier, and which serves also as the boundary point to these two neighbouring States, in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

Over the whole length of its course from the point S as far as Tendourek, the frontier going from west to east crosses the passes (1) of Khopouss, (2) of Kaghisman, (3) of Tendourek, at which places boundary marks must be fixed by the Commis-

sioners of Russia and Turkey. These boundary marks will bear the numbers XVIII, XIX, and XX.

ART. II. The frontier line between Russia and Turkey from the village of Karaourgan as far as the mountain Kessah-dagh is laid down, with full details, in the Russian Map of the Topographical Dépôt of the Caucasus on a scale of $\frac{1}{42000}$ (Map No. I), and from Mount Kessah-dagh to the old frontier of Russia, in the Russian Map of the same dépôt on a scale of $\frac{1}{84000}$ (Map No. II). These maps serve for documents explanatory of the text, and as Annexes to the present Act.*

All the distances indicated in the preceding Article are measured upon the said maps in a straight line and horizontal projection.

ART. III. It rests with the two parties interested to mutually take such steps as they shall deem useful for the establishment of boundary marks upon the frontier, in conformity with the tracing drawn up by the Commission.

The Commissioners of Russia and Turkey being agreed as to the proper points for the erection of boundary marks, over the whole frontier line, those points are laid down in the two maps indicated in Article II, the points where large marks are to be fixed are shown by Roman numbers, and those where small marks are to be fixed, by Arabic numbers. The initial letters which are found in the two maps annexed, represent the points where would be placed the marks of the provisional frontier, adopted by the Commission at Constantinople. This frontier will be found in detail in the second Protocol, and is definitively modified and established by the present Act.

* See Outline Map facing this page. For copies of the maps; see Catalogue of Maps in the Foreign Office Library, Turkey, No. 66A.

On the 13th April, 1881, the British and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople attended at the Porte, and presented to the Turkish Minister (Assim Pasha) a Memorandum stating that the British, Russian and Turkish Commissioners for the Turco-Russian Boundary in Asia, had concluded their labours, and that they had received the orders of their respective Governments to propose that the Governments of England, Russia, and Turkey should make arrangements among themselves for informing the other Powers Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, that England, Russia and Turkey had studied the question, in conformity with Article LVIII of the said Treaty, and that they had agreed upon an arrangement embodied in an Act, which would also be communicated to the Powers. No reply was returned by the Porte to this communication; but the arrangement referred to was published and laid before Parliament. See Turkey No. 10 (1881), page 44.

[Asiatic Boundary.]

ART. IV. The present Act containing four Articles and drawn up in triplicate with the maps indicated in Article II, one copy for each Power represented on the Delimitation Commission, has been signed by all the Commissioners by virtue of their powers and instructions.

Done at Kara-Kilissa (Passin), the ^{30th July}_{11th August}, 1880.

(L.S.) E. B. HAMLEY.

(L.S.) A. ZELENOY.

(L.S.) A. DJEVAD.

[Proposed Law for the Vilayets (Roumelia).]

No. 575.—*PROJET DE LOI for the Vilayets of the European Provinces of Turkey, in execution of Articles XVIII, XIX and XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).** Constantinople, 23rd August, 1880.

[It was stipulated by Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) that Laws similar to the Organic Law for Crete,† but adapted to local requirements, and excepting as regarded the exemption from taxation granted to Crete, should be introduced into the other parts of Turkey in Europe for which no special organization had been provided by that Treaty; and, further, that the Sublime Porte should depute Special Commission, in which the native element should be largely represented, to settle the details of the new laws in each Province, and that the schemes of organization resulting from those labours should be submitted for examination to the Sublime Porte, which, before promulgating the Acts for putting them in force, should consult the European Commission instituted for Eastern Roumelia. (See p. 2779.)

In May, 1880, an International Commission sat accordingly at Constantinople, and on the 23rd August, 1880, a new Law for the European Provinces of Turkey, as revised by that Commission, was signed and sealed.‡

It bore the title of "Law for the Vilayets of Turkey in Europe (Roumelia)," and the following is a short abstract of its provisions:—]

LAW FOR THE VILAYETS OF TURKEY IN EUROPE (ROUMELIA):

TITLE I.—GENERAL RIGHTS OF THE INHABITANTS.

ARTS. I—XXVI.

* This *Projet de Loi* has not yet received the sanction of the Porte (January, 1889).

† 1868. See Appendix.

‡ The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain :	Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Baron von Kosjek.
„ France :	M. G. Aubaret.
„ Germany :	Herr von Braunschweig.
„ Italy :	Cavaliere Alex Vernoni.
„ Russia :	Counsellor Hitrovo.
„ Turkey :	{ Assim Pasha (President.) { Abro Effendi.

[Proposed Law for the Vilayets (Roumelia).]

TITLE II.—OF THE VALIS.

ARTS. XXVII—XLVII.

TITLE III.—OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE VILAYETS.

ARTS. XLVIII—LI. *Of the Principal Functions of the Council of Administration.*

ART. LII. *Of the Attributes of the Mustéchars.*

ARTS. LIII—LV. *Of the Attributes of the Defterdars.*

ART. LVI. *Of the Directors of Justice.*

ARTS. LVII—LVIII. *Of the Attributes of the Mektoubdjis (Chiefs of the Correspondence).*

ART. LIX. *Of the Attributes of the Directors of Public Works, of Agriculture, and of Commerce.*

ARTS. LX—LXIV. *Of the Attributes of the Directors of Public Instruction.*

ART. LXV. *Attributes of Alay Bey, Colonel of the Gendarmerie of the Vilayet.*

TITLE IV.—OF THE GENERAL COUNCILS OF THE VILAYET.

ARTS. LXVI—LXXXII. *Composition and Attributes of the General Council.*

ARTS. LXXXIII—XCIII. *Of the Finances.*

ARTS. XCIV—C. *General Dispositions.*

TITLE V.—OF THE SUBDIVISION OF THE VILAYETS AND OF THEIR ADMINISTRATION.

ARTS. CI—CIV.

TITLE VI.—OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SANDJAKS.

ARTS. CV—CXIII. *Of the Mutessarifs.*

ARTS. CXIV—CXXXI. *Of the Council of Administration of the Liva.*

TITLE VII.—OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAZAS.

ARTS. CXXXII—CXXXVII. *Of the Caïmacams.*

ART. CXXXVIII—CXL. *Of the Councils of Administration of the Cazas.*

TITLE VIII.—OF THE COUNCILS OF COMMONALTIES.

ARTS. CXLI—CXLV.

[Proposed Law for the Vilayets (Roumelia).]

TITLE IX.—OF MUNICIPAL CIRCLES.

ARTS. CXLVI—CLIII.

TITLE X.—OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NAHIÉS.

ARTS. CLIV—CLXI. *Of the Murdîrs.*ARTS. CLXII—CLXVIII. *Of the Councils of the Nahiés.*

TITLE XI.—OF THE DIVISION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

ARTS. CLXIX—CLXXVII. *Of the Moukhtars and of the Councils of Elders.*ART. CLXXVIII. *Of the Attributes of the Moukhtars.*

TITLE XII.—OF THE ELECTIONS.

ARTS. CLXXIX—CLXXXIV. *Of the Electoral Lists.*ARTS. CLXXXV—CXCVIII. *Of the Elections for the Nahiés.*ARTS. CXCIX—CCV. *Of the Elections for Cazas.*ARTS. CCVI—CCVII. *Of the Elections for Communal Councils:*ARTS. CCVIII—CCXII. *Of the Elections for the Liva.*ARTS. CCXIII—CCXIV. *Of the Elections for the General Council of the Vilayet.*

TITLE XIII.—OF THE TRIBUNALS.

ARTS. CCXV—CCXVIII. *Tribunal of the Nahié.*ARTS. CCXIX—CCXXVIII. *Tribunal of the Liva.*ARTS. CCXXIX—CCXXXVII. *Court of Appeal of the Vilayet.*ARTS. CCXXXVIII—CCXXXIX. *Of the Competency of the Tribunal of the Liva.*ARTS. CCXL—CCXLI. *Of the Competency of the Court of Appeal of the Vilayet.*ARTS. CCXLII—CCLXIII. *Special Articles.*

TITLE XIV.—ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

ARTS. CCLXIV—CCLXXIV.

TITLE XV.—ON RELIGION.

ARTS. CCLXXV—CCLXXXVI.

[Proposed Law for the Vilayets (Roumelia).]

TITLE XVI.—ON FUNCTIONARIES.

ARTS. CCLXXXVII—CCXC. *On Functionaries in General.*ARTS. CCXCI—CCXCIII. *On the Choice of Civic Functionaries of the Vilayets.*ARTS. CCXCIV—CCCIV. *On the Judgment of the Functionaries.*

TITLE XVII.—ON THE GENDARMERIE AND POLICE.

ARTS. CCCV—CCCXXVI.

SPECIAL TITLE.

ART. CCCXXVII. Every disposition of Law contrary to those of the present Law is abolished.

The following Declaration was attached to this document :—

“The Sublime Porte having, in execution of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) demanded the assistance (“avis”) of the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia as to the laws to be introduced into the Provinces of Turkey in Europe, for which no special organization had been provided by that Treaty, We, the Undersigned Commissioners of the Powers, signatories of the above-mentioned Treaty, declare and certify that the present *Projet de Loi* is the result of the examination to which we have subjected the *Projet*, which was presented to us by the Sublime Porte.

In faith of which we have signed the *Projet de Loi* and have affixed the Seal of our Arms.

Constantinople, the $\frac{11^{\text{th}}}{23^{\text{rd}}}$ August, 1880 (17 Ramazan, 1297).

(L.S.) ASSIM.

(L.S.) ABRO.

(L.S.) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.

(L.S.) KOSJEK.

(L.S.) AUBARET.

(L.S.) ED. FITZMAURICE.

(L.S.) VERNONI.

(L.S.) HITROVO.

Certified as being in conformity with the original.

SÉON.

C. CARTWRIGHT.

ZUTZENKO.

M. RÉCHID.

No. 576.—*SELF-DENYING PROTOCOL* respecting the Montenegrin and Greek Boundary Questions. Signed by the Representatives of the Six Treaty Powers, at Constantinople, 21st September, 1880.

(Translation, as laid before Parliament.)

THE Governments represented by the Undersigned, in order to prove the entire disinterestedness with which they pursue the execution of all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), undertake not to seek, in any arrangements which may be come to in consequence of their concerted action for the execution of the said Treaty in regard to the Montenegrin question, and eventually the Greek question, any augmentation of territory, any exclusive influence, or any commercial advantage for their subjects which those of every other nation may not equally obtain.

Signed at Constantinople, 21st September, 1880.

GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.
V. HATZFELDT.
CALICE.
TISSOT.
N. CORTI.
NOVIKOW.

No. 577.—*EXCHANGE OF NOTES between the Representatives of the Powers Parties to the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) sanctioning various Acts elaborated by Boundary Commissions. August—September, 1880.*

*British Note, 9th August, 1880.**

THE following Acts elaborated by the Delimitation Commissions established in virtue of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), that is to say :—

1. The Act dated August 14, 1879 (No. 549), fixing the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

2. The Act dated September 20, 1879 (No. 553), fixing—

(a.) The Danubian frontier of Bulgaria.

(b.) The frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey (Macedonia).

(c.) The frontier between Bulgaria and Servia.

3. The Act dated December 17th, 1878 (No. 539), fixing the Roumanian-Bulgarian (Dobrudja) frontier, with the modifications of Articles VI and VII, finally adopted by the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, and specified in the Annex to this Note; and

4. The Act describing the frontier of Servia (19th August, 1879), No. 551:

Having been examined by the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) and found conformable to the provisions of that Treaty;

And the Powers having agreed to declare their sanction to these Acts by means of an exchange of Notes between the Cabinets;

The Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to declare that

* The other Notes were signed on the following dates :—

Austro-Hungarian	14th September, 1880.
French	25th September, 1880.
German	29th September, 1880.
Italian	31st August, 1880.
Russian	1 st / ₂ th August, 1880.
Turkish	11th August, 1881.

[Boundary Commission Acts.]

Her Majesty's Government confirm and sanction the Acts above mentioned.

(L.S.) GRANVILLE.

Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Office, London, 9th August, 1880.

ANNEX.

MODIFICATIONS made in the 6th and 7th Articles of the Act of December 17, 1878 (No. 539), defining the Roumano-Bulgarian Frontier drawn up by the Boundary Commission.

(Translation.)

In Article 6.* After the last paragraph, add:—In consequence of a subsequent decision of the Powers, modifying the line of demarcation from the Danube to landmark No. 5, the annexed sketch, in connection with the topographical plan above-mentioned, has been drawn up for this part of the frontier.

In Article 7.* In lieu of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th paragraphs, write:—The frontier line leaving the Danube at the place stated in Article 2 makes a slightly inflected curve, and goes towards the south as far as half-way down the slope of the second spur of the height of Arab-Tabiassi, thence it goes down that slope at a right angle, crosses the ravine to ascend directly the summit-line of the first spur of the said height, leaving Arab-Tabiassi to Roumania. It continues in the same direction as near as possible from north to south, until it meets the Karaorman road, at a place where the path leading to the village of Almalý turns off. From that place as far as landmark No. 5 (pointed out in the descriptive note-book and marked by a tree situated at the head of the valley ("thalweg") existing between the spurs of Ordu-Tabiassi and Arab-Tabiassi), the frontier is formed by the eastern side of the Karaorman road, which will thus belong in its integrity to Bulgaria.

From that point it takes an easterly direction, being formed by the straight lines which join the above-named tree to a great isolated tumulus A, and thence to a tree near the place where the roads from Almalý to Karaorman and to Esenkeui branch off (No. 7).

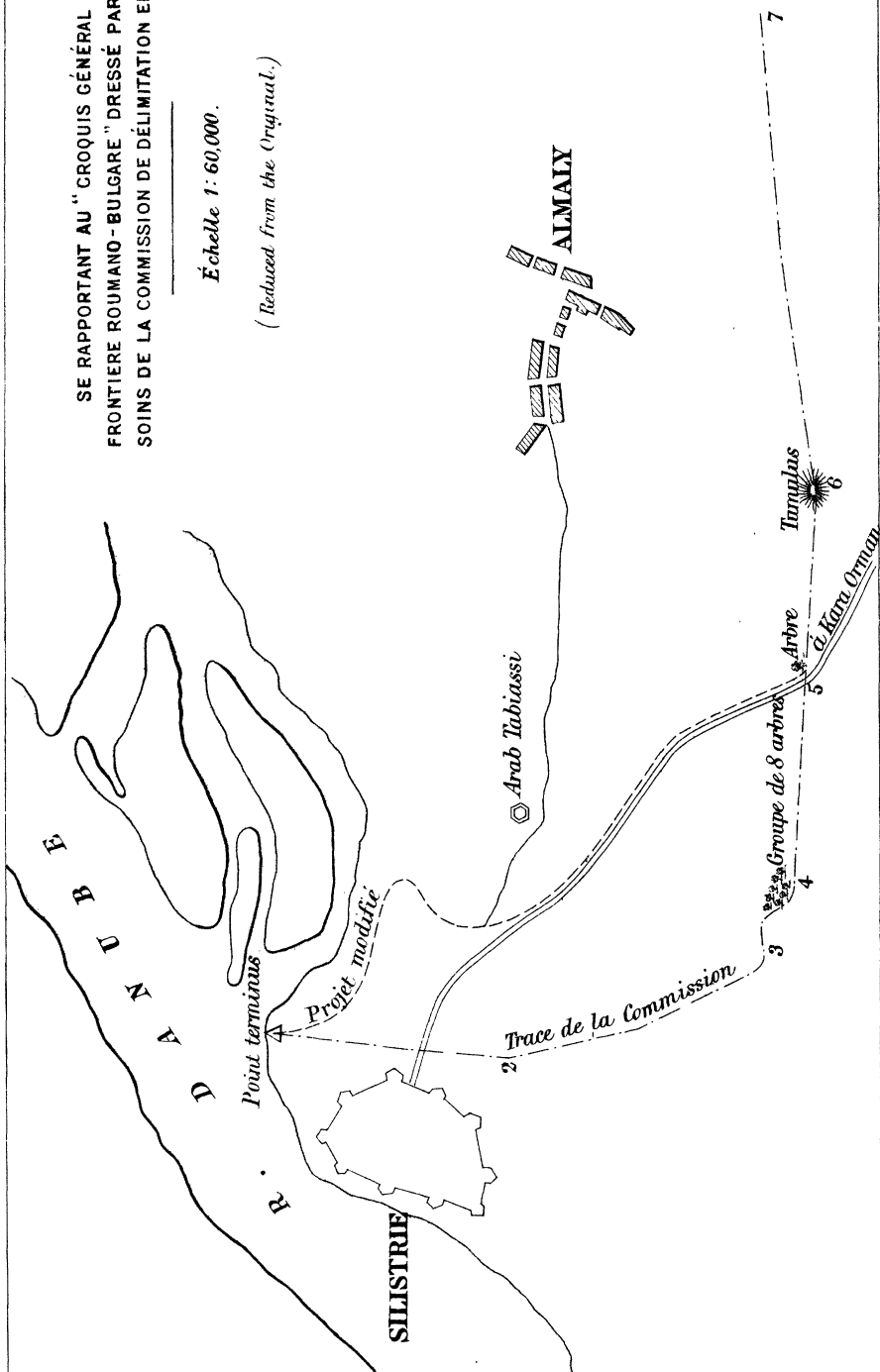
* See page 2827.

MAP OF ROUMANO-BULGARIAN FRONTIER, NEAR SILISTRIA, ON THE DANUBE. July 1880.

SE RAPPORTANT AU "CROQUIS GÉNÉRAL DE LA
FRONTIÈRE ROUMANO-BULGARE" DRESSÉ PAR LES
SOINS DE LA COMMISSION DE DÉLIMITATION EN 1878.

Échelle 1:60,000.

(Reduced from the Original.)



MAP
OF THE
ROUMANO-BULGARIAN FRONTIER
near Silistria, on the Danube
July 1880.

No. 578.—*DESPATCH* from Earl Granville, recapitulating the events which took place with reference to the Boundaries of Montenegro, between 15th January, 1877, and 26th September, 1880. London, 2nd October, 1880.*

Earl Granville to the Rt. Hon. G. J. Goschen.

SIR, Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

IN the Instructions which, by the command of the Queen, I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency on your proceeding as Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to Constantinople, I called your Excellency's attention to the pressing character of the question relating to the Montenegrin frontier.

This question had been under discussion for a great length of time. The final proposals made by the Plenipotentiaries to the Porte at the close of the Constantinople Conference of the 15th January, 1877,† recommended a rectification of the frontiers of Montenegro, including the Kuci Kraina and other mountain districts east of Lake Scutari.

During the war the Montenegrins captured Dulcigno on the 18th January, 1878, and occupied the country up to the Boyana, advancing nearly to Scutari.

By the Treaty of San Stefano (**No. 518**) a very large addition was made to Montenegro. The frontier was traced a long way to the north in Herzegovina; to the east it was made nearly contiguous to Servia; to the south it comprised Dulcigno and the Boyana, and nearly all Lake Scutari, leaving only the town to Turkey; and to the south-east it included the Hoti district, Tusi, and the whole of Gusinje and Plava.

By the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**) this was materially reduced, especially in the north and east, while to the south Dulcigno was restored to Turkey, the Clementi, Grudi, and Hoti tribes left to Albania, and the most material extension to the south-east was the district of Gusinje and Plava.

The Montenegrin troops, in fulfilment of the XXXIIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, had been withdrawn from the district of Dulcigno, but the Porte had failed to comply with

* "State Papers," Vol. 72, page 278.

† "State Papers," Vol. 68, pages 1189, 1192.

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

the Treaty by the transfer of Gusinje and Plava. On the urgent representations of the Porte of the difficulty of placing the district in the possession of Montenegro, the Powers agreed to an arrangement, to which the Prince of Montenegro had previously signified his assent, by which the Porte undertook to surrender instead a strip of territory inhabited by the Hotti, Grudi, and Clementi tribes, together with the district of Kuci Kraina.

An agreement to this effect, to be executed within ten days, was signed in the first instance between the Porte and the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires on the 12th April* (No. 562), and a Protocol recording that the new line of frontier therein described was accepted in substitution for the frontier specified in the Treaty of Berlin, was signed by the Representatives of the Treaty Powers and the Porte on the 18th April* (No. 563).

When the time came for the surrender of this territory the Turkish Commander failed to give 24 hours' notice, as had been agreed upon, to the Montenegrin authorities, and the result was that, when the Turkish troops evacuated the fortified positions on the Podgoritzza plain, which command the road between Podgoritzza and Scutari, the Albanians took possession of them, and the Montenegrins, finding that they would be resisted, did not attempt to advance. The Albanians continued to hold the country, and the Porte did not attempt to dislodge them.

This was the situation when your Excellency arrived at Constantinople. The Montenegrins and Albanians were face to face, skirmishes were occurring between the outposts, and it was evident that unless steps were taken without delay for the settlement of the frontier, active hostilities might at any time ensue.

In the Identical Note addressed to the Porte on the 11th June the Powers accordingly represented that the state of things created by the question of the Montenegrin frontier required pressing attention and immediate solution.

The note added :—

“The Turkish authorities have failed to carry out the engagement entered into between the Porte and Montenegro, and adhered to by the Representatives of the Powers in the Protocol of the 18th April, 1880 (No. 564). They have compromised the agreement accepted by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, by allowing the Albanians to occupy certain frontier positions

* This is known as the “Corti Compromise,” see “State Papers,” Vol. 71, page 1205.

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

assigned to the Montenegrins, and a collision may at any time occur between the Montenegrins and the Albanian forces opposed to them.

"The Powers, therefore, consider themselves absolutely bound to request the Government of His Imperial Majesty to state in the most explicit terms what their intentions are as regards the Montenegrin frontier, and to put into immediate execution the arrangement come to between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro (No. 562). The Powers hold the Sublime Porte responsible in advance for the grave consequences that might be produced by a further delay in giving satisfaction to the rights acquired by the Principality."

On the 24th June the Porte replied to this part of the Identical Note by offering, if the necessary time were allowed, to again undertake the execution of the Protocol of the 18th April (No. 563), and to pay to the Montenegrin Government the taxes levied by the Turkish authorities upon the territory which the Montenegrins had been provisionally unable to occupy.

Abédine Pasha added that the Porte was at the same time ready to take into consideration any other mode of settlement which might be suggested by the Powers, and which would attain the desired result without bloodshed or the disorders which would follow on a violent resistance.

Her Majesty's Consul-General at Scutari, together with the Austrian Consul-General, had suggested some time previously that an alternative plan might be proposed with greater prospects of success for bringing about a peaceful solution of the difficulty, if the Porte would consent to the surrender of the district of Duleigno, together with a small strip of territory between the Lake of Scutari and Podgoritzza, and the Kuci Kraina, but excluding the Hotti district and the Grudi and Clementi Mountains, which had been comprised in the Agreement of the 18th April (No. 563).

Her Majesty's Government were informed that this scheme had been mentioned to some of the leaders of the North Albanians, who intimated that they would not be unwilling to agree to it if the Powers would guarantee to them some form of local self-government.

Her Majesty's Government have always had in view the importance of establishing a better system of administration for the various clans which occupy the highlands of Albania, and

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

this proposal presented the advantage that, in relieving the Porte from the difficulty of carrying out the April Agreement (No. 563), it afforded an opportunity to the Powers of urging the necessity of restoring order in this part of European Turkey. Your Excellency is aware from the reports which have been received that the state of the country in North-east Albania is little short of anarchy. The Turkish officials are powerless to execute justice; murder, violence, and forced exactions are prevalent, and the peaceable population is at the mercy of the armed Committees, who, under the name of the Albanian League, have been allowed to assume absolute authority.

Communications passed between the Powers which resulted in a general assent to the scheme, and Mr. Green and M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General, laid the new proposal before the Prince of Montenegro, who, after some demur, accepted it.

The result of these communications between the Powers and the Prince of Montenegro and the Albanians was that the following joint proposals of Mr. Green and M. Lippich were telegraphed to your Excellency:—

All military posts recently erected by the Turks in an offensive sense against Podgoritzza to be destroyed.

“The frontier-line to follow the thalweg of the Boyana from its mouth to the point where stream from Lake Sas falls into it, thence in a direct line to furthest eastern projection of the frontier proposed by the Russian Commissioner last year, and marked in Captain Sale’s Map of ‘the frontier between the lake and the sea,’ to follow the Russian line up to XIth point voted by the Commission, thereabouts join Commission’s line and descend it to point XVIII on the lake, the waters of which to be divided by a direct line from points XVIII to XIX in Captain Sale’s Maps of 1879.*

“The frontier voted by Boundary Commission from points XIX to XXIII to be maintained, and thence follow red line to points XXIV and XXIV*, and be continued by Russian blue line as far as Suka-Gruda, and thence along southern frontier of the Kuci Kraina, as verified by Boundary Commission, up to its termination at Planinica; from that locality Count Corti’s line to stand good.†

* The originals of these Maps are in the Foreign Office Library. See Catalogue of Maps, Nos. 31B and 32B.

† It has not been thought necessary to give copies of the maps illustrating these various Boundary proposals.—(E. H.)

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

“The Consuls to be enabled to assure the North Albanians that their legitimate aspirations will not be disregarded, and an Imperial Proclamation in this sense to be issued by Turkish authorities.

“These administrative reforms should, in the opinion of Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul-General, be limited for the present to the Vilayet of Scutari.

“The Governor-General of the Scutari Vilayet to be an Albanian Mahomedan, to be chosen, if possible, in the vilayet; the Vice-Governor to be a Roman Catholic. A Christian Kaïmakam of the Roman Catholic tribes of the Great Mountain to be appointed to reside at Tousi.

“The proposed form of Administration to be submitted for consideration to the North Albanians.”

On the 26th June the new proposal was laid before the Porte in an Identical Note which, referring to the last paragraph of the Porte's note of the 24th, indicated as an equivalent for the Agreement of the 18th April (**No. 564**), a rectification of the frontier east and west of Lake Scutari, comprising Dulcigno. The note stated that this arrangement had the incontestable advantage of leaving no doubt as to the possibility of its execution, and that, moreover, in order to increase the favourable chances which this proposed exchange of territory presented from this point of view, it would be in the interest of the Porte to grant to the Albanians of the Provinces of Scutari administrative arrangements which, while maintaining their connection with the Ottoman Empire, would sufficiently satisfy their legitimate aspirations. As the Porte still continued bound by its previous engagements until the new arrangement had been completely carried out, if it refused to consent to the last proposal it would be under the necessity of immediately fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement of the 18th April (**No. 564**).

On the 15th July the Porte replied that it was resolved to use, as far as possible, every means to promptly execute the Agreement of the 18th April (**No. 564**). At the same time, it was ready to take into consideration the arrangement proposed by the Ambassadors, although it was surrounded by difficulties. According to the reports received by the Turkish authorities, the Montenegrins were willing to consent to the greater part of the cession under the April Agreement, and the

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

Porte proposed that this part should be surrendered, and compensation for the remainder given in the Dulcigno district, excluding the town of Dulcigno, which was inhabited by Mussulman Albanians.

With regard to the administrative arrangements for the Albanians of the Province of Scutari, Abédine Pasha observed that the inhabitants of that province had shown themselves satisfied with their condition, and had never thought of asking the Porte for any privileges beyond those which they already enjoyed. Moreover, the Turkish Government was at the time preparing, in accordance with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), a Statute applicable to all the provinces of European Turkey, the advantages of which would of course be extended to Albania.

Your Excellency and your colleagues informed the Porte in the collective note of the 3rd August, that the Powers could not accept these proposals as satisfactory, or agree to a continuance of the system of postponement which had led to the actual situation, and were under the necessity of urging the Ottoman Government to put an end to it. After further recommending the cession of Dulcigno, as most in conformity with the interests of the Porte, and as being the arrangement most advantageous for all parties, the note proceeded to state that, in case the Porte preferred to execute the engagements taken under the Agreement of the 18th April (No. 564), it was warned that if, at the expiration of a delay of three weeks, the Agreement had not been fully carried out, the Powers would expect it to join them in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district, in order to give effect to the alternative plan proposed in the note of the 26th June.

On the 9th August the Ambassadors communicated unofficially a Memorandum to the Porte, explaining in detail the new frontier-line proposed, including the cession to the east of the Lake of Scutari, as well as the district around Dulcigno, in the terms recommended by Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul-General.

On examining this Memorandum, the Turkish Minister stated that it involved the cession of Dinosi and some part of the Gruda district in the occupation of the Albanians, and on the 12th Abédine Pasha went round to the Ambassadors to announce to

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them that the Turkish Government would accept the Dulcigno proposal on two conditions:—

1. That Dinosi should not be included in the cession.
2. That further delay should be granted.

On the following day (13th) the Ambassadors addressed a *note verbale* to the Porte, requesting that they might be informed officially of the resolution at which the Porte had arrived.

On the 18th August the Porte replied to the collective note of the 3rd, that it consented in principle to the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro, and that as regards the east of the Lake of Scutari on the side of Podgoritzza, it was ready to conclude a Convention to the effect that the frontier should be drawn according to the points indicated in the Treaty of Berlin. It, at the same time, requested that the delay of 21 days should be prolonged for some weeks. If the Powers did not accept the proposals, the Turkish Government would be unable to join in any way in assisting Montenegro to occupy Dulcigno by force. In agreeing to the cession of Dulcigno, the Porte desired to give a new proof of its deference to the counsels of Europe, and thus remove every reason for taking extreme measures.

On the 23rd August Abédine Pasha made a further communication, stating that while adhering to the cession of Dulcigno and its environs, as desired by the Powers, the Porte was compelled to reserve the cession of Gruda and Dinosi, and on the 2nd September the Porte sent in another note declaring that the consent of the Albanians to the cession of Dulcigno could not be obtained unless the *status quo* were agreed to for the definition of the frontier to the east of the lake.

On the 14th September, the Porte having failed to do anything to carry out its engagements, the allied fleets were assembled at Ragusa.

The desire of Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers has been to bring about a conclusive settlement of the frontier, and with this object they had proposed a line east of the lake which would meet the recommendations of the Frontier Commission by establishing a boundary which could be permanently maintained, but they had not sought to include territory which would give rise to unnecessary difficulties. They were accordingly prepared to give way to the Porte in regard to Dinosi, which they were advised was not really necessary to be occupied as a defensive position by Montenegro. Your Excel-

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

lency and your colleagues were therefore authorized to address a collective note to the Porte on the 15th September, in the following terms:—

“The Powers, appreciating the motives alleged by the Porte for preserving the district of Gruda in its entirety to Albania, are disposed to accept the reservation made in its note of the 18th August, in so far as concerns Dinosi and its territory. They can, however, admit no other interpretation as regards the extent of the territory of Gruda than that adopted by the majority of the European Commission for the delimitation of Montenegro. It is therefore understood that the line of demarcation proposed for the districts to the east of the Lake of Scutari proposed by the collective note of the 3rd August last,* will be maintained in all its extent with the exception of the territory of Dinosi, as indicated on the Map annexed to the present communication.

“It is equally understood that in case the arrangement in question is not promptly carried into execution, the compromise now agreed to by the Powers with regard to Dinosi would be annulled.

“In informing the Porte of the above, the Powers represented by the Undersigned observe that by immediately proceeding to the effectual surrender of the territories conferred on Montenegro by the present arrangement, with the exception of that of Dinosi, the Porte would give a proof of the sincerity of its intentions, for which the Powers would be disposed to give it credit.

“In return for this cession of Dinosi to Turkey, Dulcigno should be surrendered immediately and pacifically, and in the contrary case, Montenegro should resume her claim upon Dinosi.”

This collective note was crossed by a note from the Porte of the same date, in which the Porte stated that the prompt execution of the instructions received by the Turkish Commander for the surrender of Dulcigno depended on the Turkish Government receiving assurances that the Powers would abandon the naval demonstration in case of the surrender of that town; that the religion, life, and property of the inhabitants of the towns ceded should be respected, and that the line of frontier previously traced on the side of Podgoritzza for the surrender of Dulcigno should be accepted by the Powers.

* See page 3002.

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

On the 23rd September the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires informed me that the Austrian Government had given the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna the following answer to the three questions in the Turkish Circular. He was to say that the Ambassadors at Constantinople had already agreed to a formula respecting the rights of Mussulmans and Catholics :— As to the naval demonstration, the Commander-in-Chief was, on that very day, sending Riza Pasha a summons to surrender Dulcigno, and in case he did not do so, the action of the Powers would commence in three days :—One month having elapsed from the expiration of the delay fixed in the note of the 3rd August, and the Porte not having seriously availed itself of this delay, but having continually brought up dilatory proposals, it alone must bear the responsibility for the consequences resulting from the non-execution of the surrender :—Concerning the demarcation line eastwards from Lake Scutari, the Austrian Government were not aware of any line previously agreed upon with regard to the *status quo*. They knew of no other line than that described in the last collective note to the Porte, and they must insist upon its execution.

I informed your Excellency that you might return a similar answer; but, without waiting for the reply of the Powers, the Porte had communicated to the Ambassadors a further note on the 22nd September, acknowledging the receipt of the collective note of the 15th September, and stating that the Porte had accepted the proposal for the surrender of Dulcigno; but that fresh difficulties had arisen, and agitation among the local population, while the Powers had determined on a naval demonstration, and that the Porte consequently found itself compelled to make the surrender of Dulcigno contingent on its receiving formal and official assurances :—

1. That the Powers would abandon all idea of a naval demonstration upon any question whatever, both at present and for the future.

2. That the property, life, honour, and all other rights of the inhabitants who desired to emigrate should be respected, as well as the property, life, honour, and above all, religion and other rights, of those who determined to remain.

3. That the Powers would accept the *status quo* proposed by the Porte, and would make no further demands of any kind with regard to Montenegro.

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Your Excellency is aware that when the naval demonstration was first contemplated Her Majesty's Government had proposed that under certain contingencies the Admirals should be instructed to enter, through the Consuls-General, into direct communication with the leaders of the Albanian clans, in order to explain to them the situation and ascertain their views of the local administrative reforms which would best be adopted for their respective districts, and the grant of which would compensate them for any disadvantage which they might apprehend from the proposed settlement of the frontier. Objections being entertained to this proposal it has not been proceeded with, and was not included in the Admiral's instructions.

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Her Majesty's Commissioner on the Eastern Roumelian Commission, then in session under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), was, however, informed of the recommendations of the British and Austrian Consuls-General, and a scheme for the administration of the Sandjak of Scutari, in the sense of these recommendations, was prepared and presented to the Commission by the Austrian and French Commissioners. The Commissioners were unanimous that the General Provincial Statute which had been prepared was not applicable to some parts of Albania; but the Russian Commissioner, for the reasons stated by him at the time, was unable to accept this scheme without instructions. The other Commissioners adopted it, and recommended it to the Porte, adding that they would wish that, in introducing the new Provincial Statute into other parts of Albania, regard should equally be had to the immunities of the mountain districts beyond the limits of the Sandjak of Scutari, and especially to the immunities of the Chimara. The Commissioners also saw no objection to the Albanian districts being united in a single vilayet.

In supporting these proposals, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, with the concurrence of all the other Commissioners, stated that the Commission ought not to separate without having given this tangible proof to the Albanians that the Powers were concerned for their welfare.

It would be very desirable that some opportunity should be taken to make the Albanians acquainted with the interest that has thus been taken by the Powers in the improvement of their local administration, and in securing to them their ancient pri-

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

privileges and immunities. One advantage of the Dulcigno Arrangement is, that it avoids interfering with the organization of the mountain clans; and as the free navigation of the Boyana is already secured to Montenegro by Treaty, it practically affects the Albanians as little as possible.

The note of the 22nd September has completely changed the situation so far as the acquiescence of the Albanians is concerned. It has been apparent throughout all these transactions that the Turkish authorities, while professing to be unable to overcome the resistance of the Albanians, have been stimulating it, and making use of the loyalty of the Albanians to the Sultan as a means of delaying the settlement, not only of this frontier question, but of the other questions pending with the Porte which the Sultan and his advisers are doing their utmost to evade. If the Albanians knew what was really taking place, they would probably realise this for themselves, now that the Porte has declared that it makes the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier depend, not upon Albanian interests, but upon an assurance from the Powers that they will abandon any future naval demonstration upon any question whatever.

The consequence of this note has been that Riza Pasha has refused to surrender Dulcigno, and that he has warned the Prince of Montenegro that any advance on his part will be considered as an act of hostility, and that force will be repulsed by force, whereupon the Prince has requested the Powers to inform him if in this conflict he may count upon political and military support more efficacious than that of a naval demonstration in its present limits.

The Ambassadors have replied on the 26th September, in a collective note, to the conditions required by the Porte in the note of the 22nd, that the first condition cannot be accepted, as no Power can consent to alienate or limit its inherent sovereign right to make use of its forces whenever it thinks necessary, and that all the Cabinets reserve to themselves in that respect entire liberty of appreciation and action; that the Powers accept the second condition, which has already been anticipated by the XXVIIth and XXXth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin, and are ready to formulate and complete the guarantees by a special declaration, and that the Powers must maintain the frontier-line indicated in the collective note of the 15th September, though they willingly agree, when the Porte has

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

accepted and executed the conditions therein mentioned, not to demand any other territorial concession in favour of Montenegro.

The note further states that the Powers protest unanimously against the resistance of the Porte to their legitimate demands, and that the Turkish Government must bear all the responsibility for the consequences which may ensue.

This note has been entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government, as well as the *pro-memoria* which your Excellency has informed me was this day delivered to the Porte, and in which the Ambassadors state that they have taken note of the verbal declaration made by the Sultan through Artin Effendi announcing the resolution of His Majesty to settle the question definitively by the 3rd October, and express the firm confidence that this settlement will include the immediate surrender of Dulcigno, and the dispatch of instructions accordingly to Riza Pasha.

Her Majesty's Government cannot believe that the Sultan can seriously intend to refuse to settle the Montenegrin frontier, and they consider that the gravity of the situation arises, not so much from the immediate difficulty respecting the surrender of Dulcigno, as from the determination shown by the Sultan and his Ministers throughout all these negotiations to avoid, by procrastination, the execution of the engagements of the Porte under the Treaty of Berlin.

The Treaty Powers have done all they could to facilitate the settlement of this frontier question. After the Treaty of Berlin the Prince of Montenegro had consented to evacuate Dulcigno without waiting for the complete execution of the Treaty by the surrender of Gusinje and Plava. When the Porte declared itself unable to carry out this surrender, the Powers consented to the substitution of the Agreement signed between the Porte and the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires on the 12th April (No. 563), and when the Turkish authorities failed to execute this in good faith, and the Porte again declared that it encountered great difficulties in carrying it out, the Powers proposed an arrangement, the execution of which could be attended with no difficulties. When the Porte represented that the cession of Dinosi would prevent the arrangement from being acquiesced in by the Albanians, the Powers again modified their proposals, and agreed to the district around Dinosi being retained by Turkey.

[Montenegrin Boundary.]

All these concessions have hitherto been unavailing, and now the Porte withdraws from its assent to the surrender of Dulcigno unless the Powers will agree to conditions which it was obvious that the Powers could not accept.

The settlement of this frontier is of the utmost importance to the Porte, as until it has been accomplished, there can be no prospect of this part of European Turkey being reduced to order; and, as your Excellency has on several occasions pointed out, the condition of the Vilayet of Prisrend is a standing danger to Turkey, since the assassination and oppression of the Christians and of all who show any resistance to the exactions of the armed gangs who infest the country in the name of the Albanian League may at any time provoke an insurrection or an appeal to Foreign Intervention.

I am, &c.,

Rt. Hon. G. J. Goschen:

GRANVILLE.

[The combined Fleets appeared off Dulcigno on the 28th September, 1880. On the 3rd October, a note was received by the Representatives of the Treaty Powers from the Porte entering fully into various other questions; besides that of Montenegro, such for instance as those relating to Greece, Armenia, the Réglement Organique for Turkish European Provinces, Finances, the demolition of fortresses on the Danube; and the occupation of the Balkans by Turkish troops; which note was looked upon as a defiance to Europe; and on the 4th a proposal was made by the British Government to the Treaty Powers to send part of the combined fleets to occupy Smyrna; but this step became unnecessary, in consequence of a note having been addressed by the Porte to the Powers, on the 11th of the same month, consenting to cede Dulcigno to Montenegro. But on the 22nd November, the Turkish troops advanced from Biela on the Boyana towards Dulcigno, where they were attacked by the Albanians; the Turks replied to the attack, and the Albanians, being defeated, retired. On the 25th, a Convention was concluded between Turkey and Montenegro, for the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro (No. 579)].

No. 579.—*CONVENTION between the Porte and Montenegro, relative to the Cession of Dulcigno.* Signed at Kounia, 25th November, 1880.*

ART.

TABLE.

1. Cession of Town and District of *Dulcigno*.
2. Protection of Persons and Property of Inhabitants.
3. Property of Religious Foundations (Vakoufs); Quota of Ottoman Public Debt.
4. Validity of Acts of *Turkish* Tribunals, &c.
5. Emigration.
6. Arms and Munitions of War.
7. Dispersion of Bands of Armed *Albanians*.
8. Precautions for Preservation of Order during Surrender.
9. Protection of Deserted Houses.
10. Time for Surrender of Town and District of *Dulcigno*. Mode of Evacuation by *Turkish* Troops. Occupation of Town, Fortress, &c., of *Dulcigno*, by *Montenegrin* Troops. Occupation by *Montenegrin* Troops of the right bank of the *Boyana*. *Montenegrin* occupation of *Mala* and *Vëlia Gorana*. Receipt for Surrender to be given by *Montenegrin* Commander.

(Translation.)

THE Ottoman Delegate and the Montenegrin Delegate having met at Kounia, and having found their full powers in good and due form, have agreed to the following :—

Cession of Town and District of Dulcigno.

ART. I. The town and district of Dulcigno shall be peacefully and formally surrendered to Montenegro by the Imperial Ottoman Government.†

Protection of Persons and Property of Inhabitants.

ART. II. The Montenegrin Government engages to respect the rights, lives, and honour of such inhabitants as should not desire to leave the localities ceded to Montenegro with the Imperial Ottoman troops, as well as to respect the property of the

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Article XXIX.

† Mr. Kirby Green reported, in June, 1882, that when Dulcigno and the coast as far as the right bank of the mouth of the River Boyana were ceded to Montenegro, in the autumn of 1880, it was stipulated that all the terms of Article XXIX, § 6, of the Treaty of Berlin, were to be equally applicable to the newly acquired Montenegrin ports and coast-line. He further reported that, not merely light coast-guard boats, but steam gun-vessels of the Austro-Hungarian Navy, visited the Montenegrin ports, and claimed free access to all the waters of the Principality.

inhabitants who remain, or who do not remain, conforming itself for this purpose to what has been established by the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

Property of Religious Foundations (Vakoufs). Quota of Ottoman Public Debt.

ART. III. A special Turco-Montenegrin Convention will settle the question of valuation of the property of the State or of religious foundations (vakoufs), as well as the quota of the Public Debt of the Empire that Montenegro has to bear, according to the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

Validity of Acts of Turkish Tribunals, &c.

ART. IV. The Montenegrin Government recognize as valid all the Acts which have emanated from the Tribunals and from the Ottoman authorities in the ceded localities.

Emigration.

ART. V. The Montenegrin Government will facilitate the transfer of the inhabitants who wish to emigrate out of the principality.

Arms and Munitions of War.

ART. VI. The arms and ammunition that are found in the district of Dulcigno and those remaining in the hands of the population belonging to the Imperial Ottoman Government, which could not be removed till the day of the surrender, will be placed in dépôt and confided to the charge of an Ottoman officer with a squad of soldiers sufficient to guard these stores; this officer will also be ordered, in concert with a Montenegrin officer, to facilitate the transfer of the emigrants, as well as of their personal property.

Dispersion of Bands of Armed Albanians.

ART. VII. During the operation of the surrender, the Ottoman troops must disperse all assembling of armed Albanians who would disturb order, and would oppose the march of the Montenegrin troops.

Precautions for Preservation of Order during Surrender.

ART. VIII. The Commander-in-Chief of the Albanian-

[Cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro.]

Scutari division engages to prevent any acts on the part of Ottoman subjects tending to disturb order, and to threaten security in the new Montenegrin possessions, as well as all aggressions during the operations of the surrender. After the occupation, the two Governments, conforming themselves to international obligations, will take, in concert, the necessary measures to prevent their respective dependents (*ressortissants*) from creating disturbances outside their frontier.

Protection of Deserted Houses.

ART. IX. In the case where houses should be found abandoned and shut up by proprietors who may have emigrated before the occupation of the Montenegrins, these houses shall not be opened till the return of their owners.

Time for Surrender of Town and District of Dulcigno.

ART. X. The formal and peaceful surrender of the town and district of Dulcigno shall take place in 30 hours from the departure of the Montenegrin troops from Kounia, and shall be effected in the following manner:—

Technical details of the surrender:—The Montenegrin troops collected at Kounia shall set out on Friday, 26th November, 1880 (N.S.); at noon precisely, in one or two columns.

Mode of Evacuation by Turkish Troops.

The first column shall follow the Antivari-Dulcigno road, and pass by the Majoura; when the Montenegrin troops shall have arrived at 50 paces from the two intrenchments occupied by the Ottoman troops, having on the right the Majoura and on the left the Antivari-Dulcigno road, the Turkish troops shall retire towards Dulcigno, following the road which leads over the Windmill hill (Bjela Gora). The Montenegrin troops ordered to occupy Dulcigno shall follow them by the same road, keeping the above-mentioned distance between them and the Turkish troops. When the Montenegrin troops shall be at the distance of 50 paces from the Windmill, the Ottoman troops shall retire to rejoin their headquarters upon the hills eastward of the town of Dulcigno.

Occupation of Town and Fortress, &c., of Dulcigno, by Montenegrin Troops.

The Montenegrin Commander will send one or more detachments towards the hills where the Turkish headquarters are, and will occupy at the same time the hill, the fortress, and the town of Dulcigno.

The Montenegrin detachments having arrived at 50 paces from the Turkish headquarters, the Imperial Army will quit the hills, will march along the Dulcigno-Scutari road, and will pass the night of the 26th—27th November on the heights of Chinguerk; the Montenegrin troops will follow them as far as Pistol, and will occupy the heights.

The Turkish troops finding themselves in this last locality, shall evacuate it, as soon as the Montenegrins shall have arrived at the above-named distance, and shall rejoin the Turkish headquarters. Immediately after the departure from the Majoura for Dulcigno of the Turkish and Montenegrin troops, as above stated, the Montenegrin Commander shall send a sufficient force to occupy the intrenchments which exist on the top of the Majoura.

The Turkish troops in these intrenchments will quit them as soon as the Montenegrins have arrived at the distance already established, and will descend to Pistol, to rejoin the troops that are there.

The Montenegrins will occupy during the daytime of Friday all the intrenchments of the Majoura, as well as Cervenikamen.

The next day, the 27th November, at 9 o'clock in the morning, the Montenegrin troops will proceed towards Chinguerk, and the Imperial troops will retire towards Scutari to place themselves on the same day behind the frontier line accepted by the Powers.

Occupation by Montenegrin Troops of right bank of the Boyana.

At the same time the Montenegrin troops will take possession of the right bank of the Boyana.

Montenegrin Occupation of Mala and Velia Gorana.

Friday, at noon, the Montenegrin Commander will occupy the localities of Mala and Velia Gorana, in which there are

[Cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro.]

only the inhabitants, or he will wait to take possession of these two points till the daytime of the following day, when His Excellency Dervish Pasha, on receiving a notice from the Montenegrin Commander, which shall reach him on Friday evening, will send a detachment of Ottoman troops to occupy the two localities in question, and surrender them to the Montenegrin troops.

*Receipt for Surrender of Town and District to be given by
Montenegrin Commander.*

The regular surrender of the town and district of Dulcigno being accomplished, a receipt for the possession shall be delivered to the Commander-in-Chief of the Scutari Division by the Commander-in-Chief of the Montenegrin troops.

At the request of the Montenegrin Delegate, his Turkish colleague will send to Kounia, on Friday, at 10 o'clock in the morning, two Turkish officers, who will remain with the Montenegrin Delegate till the end of the surrender.

Done in duplicate at Kounia, Thursday evening, 25th November, 1880 (N.S.).

For the Commander-in-Chief of the Scutari-
Albania Division.

BEDRI.

Lieutenant-Colonel Staff-Major.

For the Commander-in-Chief of the Mon-
tenegrin troops.

NICOLAS MATANOVICH.

Aide-de-Camp to His Highness the
Prince of Montenegro.

[On the 27th November the town of Dulcigno was peaceably occupied by the Montenegrins, and the Dulcigno District surrendered to them, and on the 5th December the combined Fleets took their departure from Dulcigno.]

No. 580.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, Russia, and Turkey, respecting the Turco-Montenegrin Boundary, and accepting the so-called "Dulcigno Arrangement" (Page 3000), as marking the Boundary from the River Boyana to Lake Scutari.* 10th May, 1880, 28th January, 1881.*

[For Protocols Nos. 1 to 26, see **No. 552.**]

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.

PROTOCOL.

No. 27. Count Colonna Ceccaldi again elected President. Captain Testa and Baron d'Estournelles elected to form Secretariat, with M. Müller as Assistant. Lieut.-Colonel Sollogoub appointed *Russian* Commissioner in place of Colonel Baron Kaulbars. Commission declared to be constituted for 1880. Omissions in previous Protocol (No. 26)† made good: labours of Commission not terminated: thanks of Commission to Secretariat for services. Danish Effendi proposes that all Memoranda and Communications be deposited with Secretariat. *Montenegrin* Delegates present a written Declaration to President, who reads it to the Conference. Commission take note of the Declaration, but *Turkish* Commissioner protests against the use of certain words in it. *Montenegrin* Delegates withdraw, and a discussion ensues between the Commissioners. Captain Sale does not believe delimitation

* The Commissioners were :—

For Great Britain :	{ Captain Sale. Lieutenant Caillard.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Consul-General Lippick.
„ France :	{ Count Colonna Ceccaldi (Minister Plenipoten- tiary). Baron d'Estournelles de Constant. M. de St. Quintin (Minister Plenipotentiary).
„ Germany :	Captain Testa.
„ Italy :	{ Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi. Major Boselli.
„ Montenegro :	{ M. Simo Popović. M. Nico Matanovich.
„ Russia :	Lieutenant-Colonel Staff Major Sollogoub.
„ Turkey :	{ Consul-General Danish Effendi. Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey. Adjutant-Major Sabri Bey.

† Page 2896.

10 May, 1880.]
28 Jan., 1881.]

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary; Dulcigno, &c.]

PROTOCOL.

impossible in *Albania* between the Lake and the Sea. *Italian* Commissioner thinks the question of principle is opposed to this partial delimitation, it being evident that *Montenegro* could not accept as definitive the tracings fixed between the Sea and the Lake without first being assured that it will receive the compensation between the Lake and the *Zem* stipulated by the Memorandum of 12th April (No. 563). *French* and *Russian* Commissioners share this opinion, especially as the absence of one of the interested parties would not permit the delimitation being proceeded with, and refer to the line of conduct adopted in a similar case in the previous year, when the *Turkish* Commissioners withdrew (see Protocol No. 5) (No. 552). *Italian* Commissioner considers it desirable to delimitate the frontier on the *Herzegovinian* side, if *Montenegro* be represented in the Commission. Commissioners adjourn on the understanding that the renewal of their labours shall be subject to the instructions that they may receive from their Governments.

Ragusa, 10th May, 1880.

- No. 28. The *French* Commissioner, Count Colonna Ceccaldi, recalled; M. de St. Quintin appointed his successor. Major Boselli appointed *Italian* Commissioner in the place of Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi. Commission declared to be constituted for 1881. Thanks expressed to Governor-General Osman Pasha, for assistance rendered by him. *Austro-Hungarian* Commissioner suggests that explanatory Memorandum respecting the New Frontier, as indicated in the Identical Note of 26th June, 1880,* should serve as the basis for the labours of the Commission between the Lake and the Sea. The *Montenegrin* Commissioner proposes the adoption of the Granville Project† as the basis, inasmuch as it had been accepted by all the Cabinets as well as by *Turkey*. The acceptance of this line by the Sublime Porte is the consequence of its acceptance of the "Dulcigno Arrangement" (No. 579). The *Russian* Commissioner considers that the line of the "Dulcigno Arrangement" forms the basis upon which the Commission has been convened; but that the object of its labours at the present meeting, has only for its basis the existing understanding (entente) between *Turkey* and *Montenegro*. The *Turkish* Commissioner, Bedri Bey, declares that he has no knowledge of the explanatory Memorandum, and that the "Dulcigno Arrangement" has not been accepted by the Sublime Porte, and he then proceeds to read the instructions which he has received relative to the delimitation of the Territory between *Lake Scutari* and the Sea. The *Montenegrin* Commissioner, out of deference to the Great Powers, accepts in principle the line between *Lake*

* See "State Papers," Vol. 71, page 1234.

† See "State Papers," Vol. 71, page 1223.

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary ; Dulcigno, &c.]

Scutari and the mouth of the small river which runs out of *Lake Sass*. He accordingly proposes that the frontier-line on leaving *Lake Scutari* should follow Captain Sale's line as far as Point IX, thence, by the thalweg of the *Megured*, then by a line crossing (traversant) *Lake Sass*, and continuing by the thalweg of the small river which leaves the Lake and enters the *Boyana*. Discussion ensues on the expression "*cours d'eau*," respecting the bridges across the rivers, and the boundary line across *Lake Sass*. Commission decide to adopt the southern line (*ligne méridionale*) of the Lake. *Montenegrin* Commissioner demands the free navigation of the Lake and the equal rights of the Riverain States over its waters. Commission expresses its opinion that the use of the waters of the Lake should belong to its Proprietors. Question of withdrawal of troops then discussed. President declares that an agreement towards the definitive direction of the frontier has been arrived at as far as the *Boyana*, and that it only now rests to send to each of the interested Parties a copy of the "*cahier de spécification*," to entrust to them the marking of the Boundary, and to draw up a description of the frontier between *Lake Scutari* and the *Boyana*, and to submit it to the two Parties interested, as well as to each Commissioner, to be submitted for the approval of their Governments. Difficulty pointed out of marking the Boundary at that time of year. Commission adjourned *sine die*. *Scutari*, 28th January, 1881.

[For Protocol No. 29, 4th February, 1881, see No. 581.]

Detailed Description of that part of the Frontier between Lake Scutari and the Adriatic, situated between the River Boyana and the said Lake. 28th January, 1881.

(Translation.)

Starting from the confluence of the *Boyana* with the small effluent of *Lake Sass*, the frontier follows along the course of that stream* as far as *Lake Sass*, the south bank of which it follows as far as the mouth of the small River *Megured*, then ascends in the said Lake. It then ascends the course of the Rivulet *Megured* as far as the point which appears in the "*cahier de spécification*" as Point I (Point numbered IX in Captain Sale's Map of 1879). Thence the frontier follows the line described in the subjoined "*cahier de spécification*" as far as Point X (numbered XVIII on Captain Sale's Map of 1879).

* It is agreed that the bridges over the Rivulet *Megured* shall be divided between the bordering States, as well as that over the tributary of *Lake Sass* which flows into the *Boyana*.

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary ; Dulcigno, &c.]

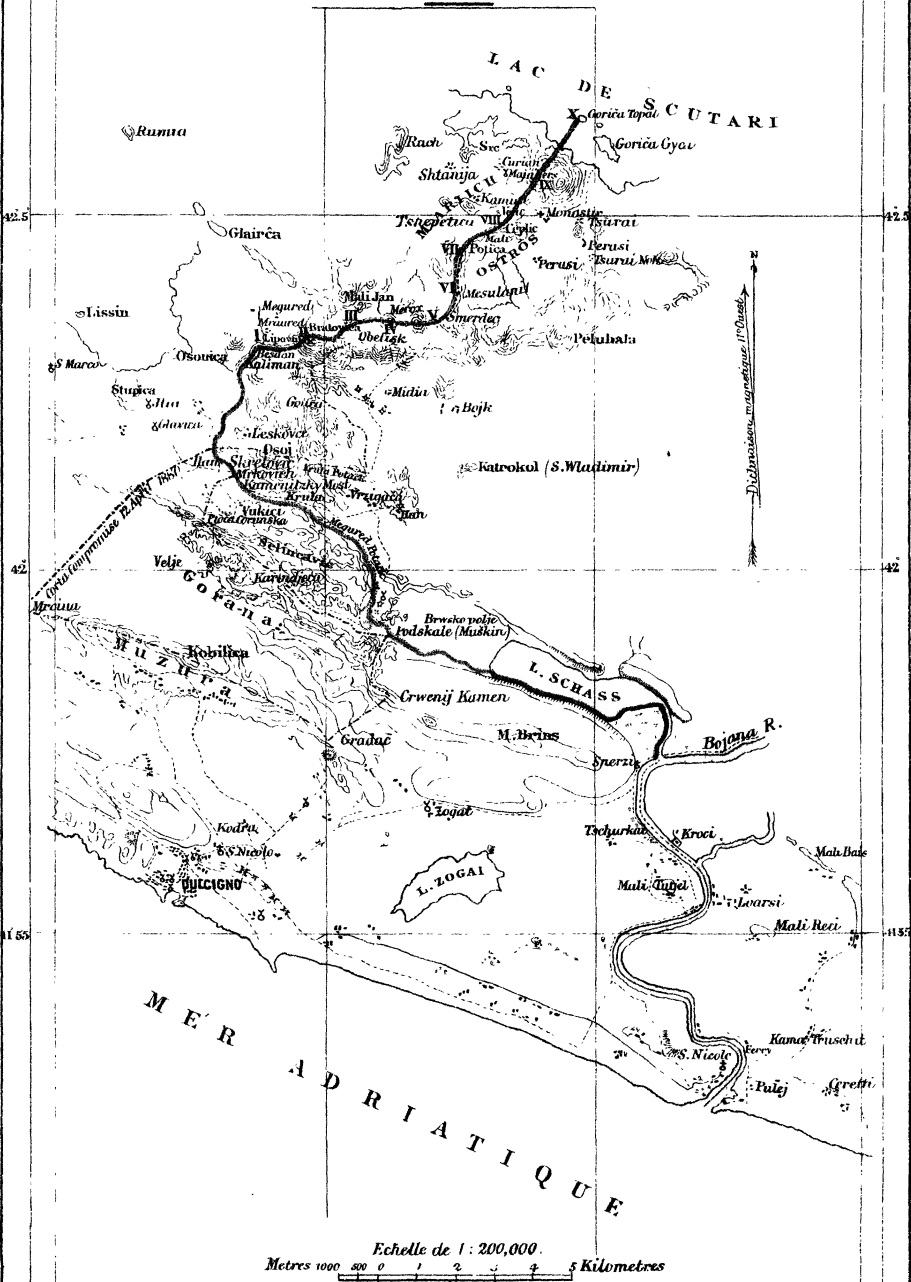
This part of the line may shortly be described in the following manner:—

Leaving the Rivulet Megured at a place where this stream runs through an aperture which it has made for itself through the rocks, the frontier ascends a spur named Leponiak as far as the summit Bratovica or Mraured ; thence it passes to the south of Mali Jan (leaving that mountain to Montenegro), and descends by the summits Merox, Smrdič, Mešulanit, and Potiča, as far as the hillock called Mali Potiča, near the village of Velič ; thence it runs to the hill called Majaljers, which is situated to the west of the village of Curian, from whence it passes by the side of the islet of Goriča Topal or Planiča.

The exact description of this part of the line is given in the subjoined list:—

MONTENEGRIN BOUNDARY.
MAP TO ILLUSTRATE DULCIGNO ARRANGEMENT OF

28th January, 1881.



*Sd^d Mr L. Salicard & Co
29th Jun^r 1881.*

MAP
OF THE
MONTENEGRIN BOUNDARY
To illustrate the Dulcigno Arrangement of
28 January 1881.

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary ; Dulcigno, &c.]

Montenegrin Frontier between Lake of Scutari and the Sea.

Copy of the detailed Description and "Cahier de Spécification" given to each of the interested parties.

Nom et Numéro de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Nature des Signes qui doivent être placés comme Marques de bornage.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.			Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A	°	'			
1. Besdân ..	Pas de signes ..	Pas d'angles	1,150	En remontant le lit du ruisseau qui descend de Megured, on trouvera à peu près à 1 kilomètre au-dessus de Kaliman, un point où le passage est complètement bloqué par un rocher perpendiculaire, formant un mur d'environ 30 mètres ou plus de hauteur. Le ruisseau s'est frayé un passage étroit dans ce mur, qu'il traverse en deux cascades dont la plus élevée est la plus grande. Le mur perpendiculaire est la première station. Cet endroit est connu dans la localité sous le nom de "Besdân;" la gorge s'appelle "Strugya," ou encore "Megured Iskala."	A la première station la frontière quitte le cours du ruisseau Megured, et remonte le contrefort escarpé de la montagne connue dans la localité sous le nom de "Lipponiak." Le Lipponiak est en vérité un contrefort très saillant et escarpé de la montagne supérieure, appelée "Mraured" sur la Carte Navale Autrichienne. Du Lipponiak la frontière longe le sommet du contrefort jusqu'à la cime de Mraured, qui forme la deuxième station.

N.B.—Cette station correspond avec le point numéroté IX dans la Carte de 1879 du Capitaine Sale.

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary; Dulcigno, &c.]

Nom et Numéro de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Nature des Signes qui doivent être placés comme Marques de bornage.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.		Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A	° ' "			
2. Mraured; aussi nom- mé "Bra- tovica."	Pas de signes ..	Pas d'angles	960	Cette station est le sommet le plus élevée de la cime ap- pelée "Mraured" sur la Carte Navale Autrichienne; cette montagne porte aussi le nom de "Bratovica;" sous une latitude approximative de 42° 3' 20", et longitude approximative de 16° 54' 44".	La frontière suit la ligne des crêtes entre la deuxième et la troisième station.
3.	Un obélisque carré en maçon- nerie. L'obé- lique doit avoir les dimensions suivantes: hau- teur, 4 mètres; largeur à la base, 1.25 mètres; idem au sommet, 0.75 mètres.	Idem	1,100	Cette station se trouve sur le sommet d'un petit monti- cule qui se trouve entre la cime de Mraured et celle de Mali Jan. Il faut mettre le signe de bornage sur le point le plus haut.	La frontière suit la ligne des crêtes entre la troisième et la quatrième station.

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary; Dulcigno, &c.]

Nom et Numéro de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.		Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
	A.	° /			
4. Merox ..	Cacevo Premier sommet au sud-est de Cacevo Majajers Maranai Sommet de la colline de Meshu- lanif La cime la plus haute de Zokkali Smrdec Sommet du sud-ouest de Mali Jan Centre du sommet de Mali Jan Strajarnik	45 42 47 14 53 28 61 14 73 34 93 25 87 56 299 30 301 7 91 14	1,380	La station est située sur le sommet du contrefort rocheux et élevée de Mali Jan, connu par les gens du pays sous le nom de "Merox." Les pentes de ce contrefort sont très rocheuses et parsemées de maigres buissons; elles sont rapides, la descente de celle du sud-est étant très difficile. Le signe sera mis sur le point même où se trouve la station.	En quittant la quatrième station, la frontière, suivant la crête, va directement sur la cime aigüe de Strajarnik, qui s'étend jusqu'à égale distance entre la quatrième et la cinquième station. Les pentes de cette colline sont très brisées, et la cime est à peu près de la même hauteur que Smrdec (cinquième station). En regardant de Merox vers Smrdec, la cime de Strajarnik est un peu à droite de celle de Smrdec. De Strajarnik la frontière va en ligne droite jusqu'à la cinquième station.

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary; Dulcigno, &c.]

Nom et Numéro de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Nature des Signes qui doivent être placés comme Marques de bornage.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.		Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A	° ' "			
5. Smrdec...	Obélisque com- me auparavant.	Pyramide sur le Rumia Sommet de Goliko Veli Rui (cime du nord) Sixième station.. Maranai.. Cime la plus haute de Zokkali.. Pyramide sur le Pjetubala.. Signe sur le sommet de Bojka.. Centre du sommet de Strajarnik Contrefort du Mali Jan (Merex) Signe sur le contrefort du Mali Jan.. (Ce signe coupe le ciel juste au centre du Mali Jan.) Catevo ..	300 48 317 56 544 42 36 26 60 29 77 2 97 21 148 39 263 11 267 57 282 48 33 36	600	Cette station se trouve sur la cime pierreuse de Smrdec, qui est à l'est du sommet boisé de Strajarnik, et à une distance de 600 mètres en- viron. Smrdec a un sommet pointu avec des pentes escarpées; à l'est, après une descente d'environ 40 mètres, on rencontre un cours d'eau; au sud, à en- viron 26 mètres, une route. Les angles avec le nord étaient pris d'un endroit à une distance d'environ 10 mètres au nord du point le plus élevé. Il faut mettre le signe sur le point le plus élevé.	En partant de la cin- quième station la fron- tière suit le partage des eaux dans la di- rection du sommet de Mesulanit, qu'elle atteint et dont elle suit la crête jusqu'au sommet nord-est du contrefort de Mesu- lanit, où se trouve la sixième station. La direction de la frontière entre la cinquième et la six- ième station est presque une ligne droite.
6. Mesulanit	Idem ..	Pyramide sur le Rumia Sommet de Golika Veli Rui (cime du nord) Septième station ..	297 19 315 29 338 15 13 19	1,300	La station se trouve sur le sommet du contrefort du nord-est de Mesulanit. Ce contrefort a la forme d'un	De la sixième station la frontière suit la crête jusqu'au som- met de Veli-Potica.

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary; Dulcigno, &c.]

Nom et Numéro de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Nature des Signes qui doivent être placés comme Marques de bornage.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.		Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A	° ' "			
		Sommet sud est-de Tshapelica . Majajers Cacevo Maranai Cime la plus haute de Zokkali. Signe sur le Pjetubala.. Cinquième station .. Sommet du sud-ouest de Mali Jan	32 15 33 20 44 28 61 17 77 54 110 57 216 49 272 27		monticule rocheux et cou- vert de buissons, avec une cime plate. A l'ouest-sud- ouest on voit, à une distance d'environ 500 mètres, le mont de Mesulanit, qui est couvert de bois, et le som- met du sud-sud-est de la colline de Tshapelica, qui sont presque en ligne droite avec cette station. Il faut mettre le signe sur le point le plus élevé tout près du mur qui se trouve sur la crête, et qui la suit; la direc- tion étant du nord au sud.	De là, suivant tou- jours la crête, elle passe au point ex- trême du nord-est de Mali-Potica (qui n'est en réalité qu'un contrefort de Veli- Potica); ici se trouve la septième station.
7 Mali Po- lica	Idem	Pyramide sur le Rumia Veli Rui (cime du nord) Huitième station .. Cacevo Maranai	288 2 329 10 58 18 57 40 62 25	1,220.	Cette station est sur l'extrémité du nord-est de la colline de Potica, connue des gens du pays sous le nom de "Mali- Potica;" le mont a une	De la septième station la frontière suit la ligne du partage des eaux jusqu'au som- met du sud-sud-est

Nom et Numéro de la Station où du Point fixé.	Nature des Signes qui doivent être placés comme Marques de bornage.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.		Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
A.	°	'				
Premier monticule au sud-est de Majajers Cime la plus haute de Zokkali. Signe sur le Pjetubala. . . Sixième station. . . . Merex (contrefort de Mali Jan) Sommet du nord de Mali Jan.. Sommet du nord-ouest de Gla- vica-vrh (Ce sommet est boisé.)						

Nom et Numéro de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Nature des Signes qui doivent être placés comme Marques de bornage.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.		Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A	° /			
8. Tshepe- liça	Obélisque com- me auparavant.	Pyramide sur le Rumia.	283 55	1,880	On trouvera cette station sur le sommet du sud-sud-est de la colline de Tshepelica, qui est elle-même la plus au sud-sud-est des deux col- lines qui s'élèvent de la plaine de Martich. Ces col- lines ne sont pas hautes re- lativement à la chaîne des montagnes du Kraïna avec leurs grands contreforts ; mais elles sont plus élevées que quelques autres que se trouvent encore plus au sud-sud-est. La pente du sud-ouest de Tshepelica est rocheuse, nue, et assez rapide, tandis que celle du nord-est est boisée, couverte de fougère et peu inclinée. Au sud-sud-est, à une dis- tance d'environ 600 mètres, on voit un petit monticule boisé avec un groupe de	De la huitième à la neuvième station le tracé de la frontière est une ligne droite.
		Veli Rui (cime du nord)	307 4			
		Premier monticule au sud-est de Majaljers..	38 38			
		(Ceci est approximatif, car les arbres empêchent la vue.)				
		Neuvième station	36 36			
		Čačvo ..	57 32			
		Maranai..	62 52			
		Cime la plus haute de Zokkali	79 43			
		Signe sur le Pjetubala..	158 15			
		Mešulanit ..	211 25			
		Merox (contrefort du Mali Jan) ..	231 31			
		Septième station	237 56			
		Sommet du nord de Mali Jan	246 22			
		Sommet (boisé) du nord-ouest de Glavica-vrh ..	267 47			

[Turco-Montenegrin Boundary; Dulcigno, &c.]

Nom et Numéro de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Nature des Signes qui doivent être placés comme Marques de bornage.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.			Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A.	°	'			
9. Majaljers.	Ohésique com- me auparavant.	1,580	maisons sur le sommet. On ne voit la direction de la prochaine station qu'avec beaucoup de difficulté à cause des arbres qui se trouvent en face. Tshepelica a deux petits sommets ; celui le plus au sud-sud-est a été choisi comme étant le plus élevé. C'est sur le sommet qu'il faut mettre le signe.	La direction de la frontière est la continuation de la ligne droite entre la huitième et la neuvième station. Elle touche l'extrémité du nord-ouest de l'îlot de Gorica

Nom et Numéro de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Nature des Signes qui doivent être placés comme Marques de bornage.	Angles avec le vrai Nord.		Distance approx- imative en Mètres à la Station suivante.	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A.	° /		Topal," ou quelquefois de "Tophalva," et encore quel- quefois de "Gorica Pla- nica." Du groupe d'îlots situé à la hauteur de Mar- tich, et d'Ostrôrs dans le Kraïna, Gorica Topal est celui qui est le plus à l'ouest. La ligne-frontière passe tout près de l'îlot à l'ouest mais sans le toucher, en laissant l'îlot même à la Turquie. N.B.—Le Point 10 correspond avec le point numéroté XVIII dans la Carte de 1879 du Capitaine Sale.	

No. 581.--*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, Russia, and Turkey, respecting the Boundary between Spizza and Antivari (Austria-Hungary and Montenegro). Scutari, 4th February, 1881.*

[For Protocols Nos. 1-26 see No. 552, and Nos. 27, 28, No. 580.]

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOL.

PROTOCOL.

No. 29. Protocol of preceding sitting read and adopted (No. 580). All the Commissioners are in possession of map and details of frontier-line between the *Lake of Scutari* and the *Boyana*. Details of boundary marks of frontier between *Spizza* and *Antivari* placed before Commission, in accordance with Protocol between *Austria-Hungary* and *Montenegro*, of 17th May 1879 (No. 552). Discussion respecting the frontier of the *Boyana*. *Montenegrin* Commissioner declares that the base accepted by his Government was the Granville "*projet*" (No. 578), and claims the thalweg of the *Boyana*. *Turkish* Commissioner has no knowledge of the Granville "*projet*," and can only accept the frontier as following the right bank of the *Boyana*. All except *Ottoman* Commissioner vote in favour of the thalweg. *Ottoman* Commissioner places before the Commission petitions from *Mussulman* inhabitants of *Podgoritzza* and *Niksic*, complaining of the new administration, which the Commission refuse to consider as not being within its competence. Work of Commission being finished, an adjournment to 15th May, 1881, is decided upon. The place of meeting to be *Scutari*. Captain Sale thanked for topographical works, and proceedings closed with thanks to Captain Testa and the President.

Scutari, 4th February, 1881.

[It was recorded in the Protocol of the 8th September, 1879 (No. 552), that the British Commissioner, Captain Sale, had asked the Commission whether it was its intention to fix the limits of Spizza, and if so, when the work would be proceeded with, and that the Commissioners of Austria-Hungary and Montenegro had stated that the frontier had already been defined by their Governments, who would forward to the Commission the Sketch and Table of Specifications relating thereto, which had been agreed upon between them.]

TABLE DE SPÉCIFICATION des Marques de Bornage de la Frontière entre Spizza et Antivari (Autriche-Hongrie et Monténégro), d'après le Protocole de Zube du 17 Mai, 1879 (No. 552).

Nombres de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Description des Signaux.	Angles relatifs au vrai Nord.		Distances en mètres. (Les distances marquées en italiques sont approximatives, celles marquées en romain sont mesurées.)	Description générale de la Position, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A.	° ' "			
1.	Petit obélisque en pierres taillées en partie, posées en ciment de chaux. Base 0·8 mètres, largeur supérieure 0·5 mètres, hauteur 0·9 mètres.	Sommet de la Rumia .. Point culminant du Lisin Col de Trivoga (voir "Trerogy" sur la carte de la marine Autrichienne) Sommet le plus élevé du Lovćen Colline de Šipčanić dans la plaine de Podgorica	123 12 142 30 301 31 320 6 39 42	10,132 42,800 5,800	Le signal est posé à peu près au centre du petit plateau rocheux et aride qui forme la partie supérieure de Vršuta. L'obélisque formant antérieurement une marque de bornage de la frontière Turco-Monténégro a été remis à neuf. Il porte actuellement encore le No. 11 (81) en caractères Turcs. La position exacte de cette marque de bornage résulte des angles relatifs au vrai nord indiqués ci-près.	On obtient la ligne-
2.	Obélisque en pierres	Point No. 1 sur la Vršuta	319 54	..	Le signal est marqué d'une croix	

[Montenegrin Boundary. Spizza and Antivari.]

Numéros de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Description des Signaux.	Angles relatifs au vrai Nord.		Distances en mètres. (Les distances en marquées en <i>italiques</i> sont approximatives, celles marquées en romain sont mesurées.)	Description générale de la Posi- tion, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A	° ' "			
	brutes, dimensions comme au No. 1.	Col Šenteliija (portant le nom de "Mala vršuta" sur la carte de la marine Autrichienne) Col Kosa (voir : carte de la marine Autrichienne) au nord de l'enselle- ment de Sutorman Sommet de la Rumia ..	350 30 50 48 120 3	640 2,540 14,200	avec le No. cadastral 34 (+ 34), il a été placé sur le point culmi- nant du col rocheux, pointu et aride, nommé Štog ou bien Vrh Štega (Stela), fermant le con- trefort sud du pic de rocher de Šenteliija qui le domine con- sidérablement, désigné sur la carte de la marine Autrichienne par Mala Vršuta. Entre le point 2 et celui No. 1 s'étend le formidable ravin rocheux de Brdza.	frontière entre les points 1 et 2 en pro- jetant verticalement sur les versants la ligne droite qui relie les deux points.
3	Obélisque comme au point 2	Point 1 sur la Vršuta .. Point 2 sur la hauteur du Štog	350 1 1 25	1,780 690	Le signal est marqué d'une croix avec le No. cadastral 32 (+ 32), il est placé au sud du col por-	

Numéros de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Description des Signaux.	Angles relatifs au vrai Nord.		Distances en mètres. (Les distances en marquées en <i>italiques</i> sont approximatives, celles marquées en romain sont mesurées.)	Description générale de la Posi- tion, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A	° ' "			
4	Bloc de rocher naturel à demi enfoncé dans le sol, contenant à peu près 4 mètres cube.	Sommet de la Rumia ..	112 6	<i>8,560</i>	tant le No. 2 sur le second con- trefort de la Šentelija, nommé Gornja Gora ou bien "na dno Stoga." Ce contrefort rocheux et aride tombe à l'ouest et au sud en pentes escarpées vers le plateau boisé inférieur. La position exacte résulte des angles relatifs au vrai nord in- diqués ci-près.	Le signal est marqué d'une croix avec le No. cadastral 26 (+ 26), il a été posé sur l'ensellement entre les deux sommets rocheux de Debelja (à l'ouest et le plus élevé), et de Velji Zanovedi (à l'est et le moins élevé) au bord du versant sud de la selle. Toute la localité, les deux sommets in- clus, est appelée Planagora, par
		Sommet du Lisin ...	139 3	<i>11,030</i>		
		Point 3	349 42	1,370		
		Sommet de la Rumia ..	112 5	<i>7,450</i>		
		Sommet du Lisin ..	139 0	<i>9,530</i>		

[Montenegrin Boundary. Spizza and Antivari.]

Numéros de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Angles relatifs au vrai Nord.		Distances en mètres. (Les distances en italiques sont approximatives, celles marquées en romain sont mesurées.)	Description générale de la Posi- tion, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
	A	° ' "			
Description des Signaux.					
Obélisque en pierres brutes ou taillées, posées en ciment de chaux. Sa base est d'un mètre carré, sa hauteur d'1 3 mètre, la partie supérieure forme un cône obtus.	Le signal 4 n'est pas visible du point 5 Col de Debelja... Eglise du village Zubci. Col pointu de Jerinec (voir : carte de la ma- rine Autrichienne)	.. 305 30' 39 7 91 12	1,050 <i>1,600</i> <i>1,250</i> <i>2,400</i>	les habitants ; elle s'étend vers le versant de la Gornja Gora (signal 3) en plateau légèrement creusé, planté de chênes clair- semés. La position exacte du signal ré- sulte des angles relatifs au vrai nord indiqués ci-près.	La ligne-frontière en- tre les signes 4 et 5 est marquée par le fil d'eau du torrent de Banova voda qui prend sa source im- médiatement au-des- sous du signal 4, sur le versant sud de l'ensellement de la Planagora.

Numéros de la Station ou du Point fixé.	Description des Signaux.	Angles relatifs au vrai Nord.		Distances en mètres. (Les distances marquées en <i>italiques</i> sont approximatives, celles marquées en roman sont mesurées.)	Description générale de la Posi- tion, de la Station, ou du Point fixé.	Observations.
		A	° ' "			
6	Obélisque comme celui du point 5	Le signal 5 n'est pas visible du point 6 Col de Debelja Col pointu de Jerinec .. Lisin Fanal de la batterie de côte Voluvica	.. 7 0 73 0 123 30 213 12	2,650 <i>2,380</i> <i>4,380</i> <i>8,760</i> <i>2,450</i>	Le signal est marqué du No. cadastral 2 A et se trouve dans l'angle nord de l'embouchure de la petite rivière de Željeznica dans la mer (rade d'Antivari) tout auprès de celle-ci. La position exacte résulte des angles ci-près indiqués.	La ligne-frontière en- tre les signaux 5 et 6 correspond au cours d'eau de la petite rivière de Željeznica.

SAUERWALD, m. p. Capitaine.

Cattaro, le 10 Février, 1880.

Presented to the Montenegrin Boundary Commission by the Austrian Commissioner, February 4, 1881.
See Protocol, No. 29 (No. 581, Page 3029.) M. T. SALL, Captain R.E., Commissioner.

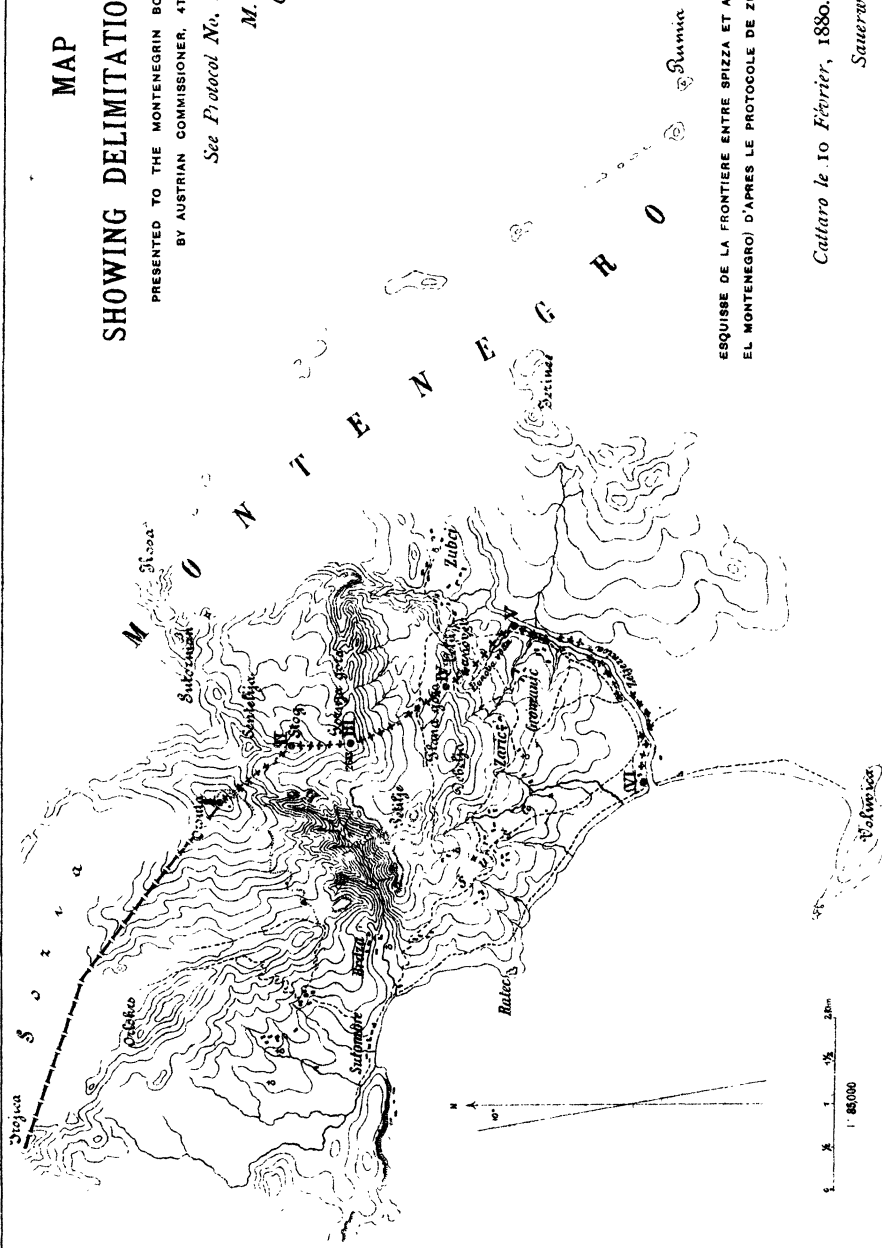
MAP

SHOWING DELIMITATION OF SPIZZA.

PRESENTED TO THE MONTENEGRIN BOUNDARY COMMISSION
BY AUSTRIAN COMMISSIONER, 4TH FEB., 1881

See Protocol No. 29.

M. S. Sale, Capt. R.E.,
Commissioner.



ESQUISSE DE LA FRONTIERE ENTRE SPIZZA ET ANTIYARI (AUTRICHE-HONGRIE
EL MONTENEGRO) D'APRES LE PROTOCOLE DE ZUBCI DU 17 MAI, 1879.

Cattaro le 10 Février, 1880.

Sauerwald, Capitaine.

MAP
Shewing the Delimitation of
SPIZZA.
4 February 1881.

No. 582.—*MEMORANDUM signed by the Ambassadors of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, showing the Recommendations which they had unanimously agreed to make to their Governments for the Rectification of the Turco-Greek Frontier. Constantinople, 27th March, 1881.*

Procès-Verbal.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

THE Undersigned, Ambassadors of the Mediating Powers, instructed by their Governments to come to an understanding upon a new rectification of the Turco-Greek frontiers, have agreed to recommend the following solution to their Governments:—

The new frontier-line, starting from a point near the defile of Karalik-Dervend, between the mouth of the Salamvrias and Platamona, about 4 kilom. to the south of the latter point, follows in a westerly direction the crest of the mountains, passes first between Krania and Avarnitza, then between Nezeros and Analipsis, arrives at the summit of Mount Godaman, then descends towards the south, following the crest of Olympus, reaches the summit of Kokkinopetra, and taking a westerly direction from this point, without leaving the same crest, passes between Ligara and Derveni-Melona, and arrives at the summit of Mount Kritiri. Thence turning towards the south the line gains the right bank of the Xeraghis, and following the line of water-shed towards the south-west, gains the summit of the heights situated to the north of the village of Zarko, then turns to the north-west in the direction of Diminitza and keeps to the line of water-shed, leaving to Turkey the village of Eleutherokhorion. Before reaching Diminitza, at a distance of about 18 kilom. from that place, the frontier-line turns towards the west, still on line of water-shed, and passes by the villages of Flamouristi, Gavranon, and Georgitza to the summit of Mount Kratchovo. Then turning southwards by the crest, it passes by the summits of Mount Zygos, Dokini, and Peristeri, and gains the River Arta, following the stream which carries off by the shortest way the rainfall from the summit of Mount

[Turco-Greek Frontier.]

Peristeri to this river, and passing near the villages of Kalarhytes and Mikalitzì.

Beyond these last points the line follows the thalweg of the River Arta to its mouth.

The territory of Punta will be ceded to Greece.

All the fortifications commanding the entrance to the Gulf of Arta, both on the side of Prevesa as well as on that of Punta, will be disarmed, and the free navigation of the Gulf of Arta will be secured.

The Undersigned have likewise agreed that Greece should be asked to give special guarantees in favour of the Mussulman population in the annexed provinces, both as regards liberty of worship and respect for the rights of property.

They further deem it necessary, with a view to a pacific issue, that the Cabinets, if they approve of this result of their labours, should communicate it in the first place to the Greek Government, and then to the Ottoman Government, as the unanimous decision of the Six Powers.

The Undersigned finally believe that it would facilitate the acceptance of this solution by Greece if the Cabinets should think fit to make a declaration that, when the occasion arises, the Powers would watch over the execution of the Agreement.

Done at Constantinople, the 27th March, 1881.

GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

v. HATZFELDT.

CALICE.

TISSOT.

L. CORTI.

NOVIKOW.

[See Convention between the Six Treaty Powers and Turkey, for the Settlement of the Frontier between Greece and Turkey, signed at Constantinople, 24th May, 1881 (No. 584).]

No. 583.—*PROTOCOL giving a Summary of the Proceedings of Conferences held between the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers Parties to the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) on the Turco-Greek Frontier Question, from 10th to 24th May, 1881. Constantinople, 24th May, 1881.*

[See also Supplementary Protocol of 24th May, 1881, page 3040.]

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

THE first Conference was held at the Sublime Porte on the 10th May, under the presidency of his Excellency Server Pasha. Some questions relative to the mode of procedure were first of all settled. It was agreed that they should confine themselves to taking note of the decisions which might be successively taken; and that the presidency should devolve alternately upon the First Turkish Plenipotentiary and the Doyen of the Ambassadors.

The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries then presented a series of Articles to form part of the Convention; and which principally related to the guarantee of rights of property in the territories to be ceded, religious liberty, and the connection with the "Chéri." The text of this proposal is annexed to the present Protocol (*see Annex 1**). The Ambassadors replied that they would examine the document presented and be prepared to enter into a discussion of it at the next meeting. The Ambassadors presented on their side a complete draft Convention, of which a copy is also inclosed (*see Annex 2**). The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries announced; moreover, that at the next meeting they would propose some fresh Articles, relating to other matters.

The next day (the 12th) the second sitting took place, which was held at the English Embassy. The Turkish Plenipotentiaries presented four new Articles, of which the text is also inclosed (*see Annex 3**). The Ambassadors having consulted among themselves, declared that three of these Articles, as well as two of those which had been communicated at the preceding sitting, could not be accepted, being foreign to the subject of the negotiation. The text of these five Articles is annexed to the present Protocol (*see Annex 4**). A long discussion followed; in the course of which the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries defended

* It has not been thought necessary to give these Annexes. Copies of them, in French, are given in the "State Papers," Vol. 72, pp. 526-527.—(E. H.)

the Articles in question. As regards the clause according to which the Hellenic Constitution could not be quoted in future as preventing the execution of the international duties of Greece, they alleged that the reason for it was the numerous infractions formerly committed by Greeks under this head. They were answered that Greece, being an independent State, she was already under the obligation of always conforming to international law, and that the mention of this obligation in the Convention was subsequently perfectly idle and contrary to usage. The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries also defended the point of the disarming of Volo. But it was replied on the part of the Ambassadors that this clause would constitute a modification of the solution already accepted on both sides, and that it could not be agreed to. The Ambassadors declined to enter into a discussion on the other three Articles, as being entirely outside their powers. The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries announced that they would give an answer at the next meeting.

The third meeting took place on the 15th May. The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries declared that they were not yet in a position to communicate their definitive decision regarding the five Articles thrown out by the Ambassadors, but that they were ready to enter on a discussion of the other Articles: The Ambassadors repeated their firm resolve not to admit the five Articles in question; and refused to discuss the others until the five above mentioned had been withdrawn:

At the fourth sitting, which took place on the 16th May, the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries announced that they withdrew the five Articles which had been opposed by the Ambassadors. The other Articles of the Convention were then discussed.

The preamble was accepted as it had been drawn up in the draft of the Ambassadors.

Articles I and II, containing the line already agreed upon, were accepted on both sides.

A long discussion followed on the Articles relating to property and religious liberty. They succeeded in coming to an agreement on the majority of these questions. The points on which an understanding could not be arrived at were reserved for the next meeting.

As regards the evacuation of the territory to be ceded, it was agreed that it should be regulated by an Act annexed to the Convention, and having the same force and value.

With respect to the share of the Turkish debt to be assumed by Greece, the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries defended the text contained in their proposal. But the Ambassadors having declared that they were not, at that moment, in possession of the necessary data to determine this share, it was agreed that the amount should be settled hereafter by an agreement between the Sublime Porte and the Representatives of the Mediating Powers.

To Article XVIII, to the effect that the conclusion of the Convention should be immediately followed by the signature of an identic Convention between Turkey and Greece, no objection was raised.

At the fifth sitting, which took place on the 17th May, an understanding was arrived at on all the points which had been left open, and the agreement was complete as to the terms of the Convention. It was agreed that, at the meeting on the following day, they would proceed to the discussion of the Annex containing the details as to the manner of execution.

At the sitting of the 19th, which was the sixth, the draft Acts presented by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries and the Ambassadors were first read over, the texts of which are annexed to the present Protocol. A long discussion took place with reference especially to the periods to be fixed for the evacuation of the different sections. An understanding was arrived at with respect to this. The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries then expressed a wish that some further points should be stated; in order to fix more precisely the part of the new frontier line between Kritiri and the heights to the north of Zarko. The Ambassadors replied that the text of the line having been accepted on both sides could not be altered; but recognising the advantage of better defining this part of the line, they engaged to furnish to the Delimitation Commissioners the original text of the Turkish proposal for this part of the line, with the recommendation that, from the River Xeraghis to the heights to the north of Zarko, the crest of the mountains should be followed as far as possible. The copy of the text of the declaration to this effect, which was delivered by the Ambassadors to the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries, is annexed to the present Protocol. A general understanding was afterwards arrived at on the other points.

The seventh sitting took place the 21st May. Some points relating to the Military Annex were first settled, as well as the definitive form of this Act, and a complete agreement resulted.

These two Acts having been read over, they were initialed by all the Representatives.

Done at Constantinople, the 24th day of May, in the year 1881.

(L.S.) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.
(L.S.) v. HATZFELDT.
(L.S.) CALICE.
(L.S.) TISSOT.
(L.S.) L. CORTI.
(L.S.) NOVIKOW.
(L.S.) SERVER.
(L.S.) MOUKHTAR.
(L.S.) ALY.
(L.S.) ARTIN DADIAN:

FIRST ANNEX.—*Articles presented by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries at the First Conference.*

SECOND ANNEX.—*Draft of Convention presented by the Ambassadors at the First Conference.*

THIRD ANNEX.—*New Articles presented by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries at the Second Conference.*

FOURTH ANNEX.—*Articles declared inadmissible by the Ambassadors at the Second Conference.*

FIFTH ANNEX.—*Draft Act presented by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries at the Sixth Conference.*

SIXTH ANNEX.—*Draft presented by the Ambassadors at the Sixth Conference.*

SEVENTH ANNEX.—*Declaration made by the Ambassadors at the Seventh Conference.*

(Translation.)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL *explaining certain Passages in the Military Annex, and laying down conditions for the removal of Torpedoes, &c., from the Ports of Prevesa and at the entrance of the Gulf of Volo. Constantinople, 24th May, 1881.*

To-day, the 24th May, 1881, the Plenipotentiaries of the Sublime Porte having assembled with the Representatives of the Six Mediating Powers, seven copies were signed of the Convention, the Military Annex, and the General Protocol.

At the request of the Ambassadors, the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries declared that the Government of His Majesty the Sultan undertook to remove, during the evacuation of the Imperial troops, all the torpedoes and all impediments which may have been placed outside of the ports of Prevesa and Arta, and at the entrance of the Gulf of Volo. The same engagements shall be undertaken by the Hellenic Government regarding the torpedoes which may have been placed by them in the Gulf of Arta.

The Ottoman Delegates having requested that by the word "concert" ("accord"), inserted in Article III of the Military Annex, it should be understood that "the European Commission would communicate to the Greek Commander the arrangements made by the Ottoman Commander relative to the evacuation of the territories, and would thereupon invite him to take possession of the territories evacuated," the Ambassadors replied that the duty of the Commission naturally consisted in shortening according to the very terms of the Convention the periods laid down for the evacuation of the territories, but that the Commissioners would endeavour to reconcile as much as possible the military formalities of the two parties.

Before closing the sitting, the Ambassadors declared that the Cabinet of Athens was to be invited by their Governments to furnish its Representative at Constantinople, or any other person whom it might think fit, with the powers necessary to sign without delay, with the Sublime Porte, the identic Convention contemplated by Article XVIII of the Convention concluded this day between the Plenipotentiaries of His Majesty the Sultan and the Ambassadors of the Six Mediating Powers (No. 584).

Done at Constantinople, the 24th day of the month of May, 1881.

GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.
v. HATZFELDT.
CALICE.
TISSOT.
L. CORTI.
NOVIKOW.
SERVER.
MOUKHTAR.
ALY.
ARTIN DADIAN.

No. 584.—*CONVENTION between Her Majesty, the German Emperor, the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, the President of the French Republic, the King of Italy, the Emperor of Russia, and the Sultan, for the Settlement of the Frontier between Greece and Turkey. Signed at Constantinople, 24th May, 1881.*

ART.

TABLE.

1. New Frontiers. Boundary Commission ; mode of Voting.
2. Cession of *Punta to Greece*. Gulf of *Arta* ; Disarmament of Fortifications ; Free Navigation.
3. Inhabitants of Ceded Territories.
4. Rights of Property.
5. Estate of the Sultan.
6. Land Owners.
7. Pasture Lands.
8. Religious Freedom in Territories ceded to *Greece*. Local Courts of the Chéri.
9. Settlement of Disputes : State Property, Private Interests. Indemnity to be paid by *Greece* for *Ottoman* Government Lands.
10. *Greece* : Share of *Ottoman* Debt ; Ceded Territories.
11. Disarmament.
12. Brigandage.
13. Emigration. Military Service.
14. Arrears of Taxes.
15. Evacuation.
16. Technical Commissioners.
17. Amnesty.
18. Conclusion of a similar Convention between *Greece* and *Turkey*.
19. Ratifications.

Annex.

1. Map of Territories Ceded to *Greece*.
2. Evacuation. War Materials.
3. Commission composed of Military Delegates.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India ; His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia ; His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., and Apostolic King of Hungary ; the President of the French Republic ; His Majesty the King of Italy ; and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, exercising the mediation contemplated by Article XXIV of the Treaty signed at Berlin on the 13th July, 1878 (**No. 530**), of the

one part; and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, of the other part; being equally animated by the desire to regulate, in the interest of European order, the questions relative to the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontiers, have determined to conclude a Convention destined to give a definite solution to this question.

Their said Majesties and the President of the French Republic have, to this effect, appointed as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India: the Right Honourable George J. Goschen, Her Special Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia: Paul, Count de Hatzfeldt Wildenburg, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., and Apostolic King of Hungary: Henry, Baron Calice, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

The President of the French Republic: Charles Tissot, Ambassador of the French Republic at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

His Majesty the King of Italy: Louis, Count Corti, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias: Eugène Novikow, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

And His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans: Mahmoud Server Pasha, President of His Council of State; the Mushir Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, President of the Commission of Inspection of Military Reforms; the Mushir Aly Nyzami Pasha; Artin Effendi Dadian, Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Foreign Affairs;

Who, furnished with the necessary powers, have agreed to the following Articles:—

New Frontiers.

ART. I. The new frontiers of Turkey and Greece are fixed as follows :—*

The new frontier line starting from a point near the defile of Karalik-Dervend, between the mouth of the Salamvrias and Platamona, about 4 kilom. to the south of the latter point, follows in a westerly direction the crest of the mountains, passes first between Krania and Avarnitza, then between Nezeros and Analipsis, arrives at the summit of Mount Godaman, then descends towards the south, following the crest of Olympus, reaches the summit of Kokkinopetra, and, taking a westerly direction from this point without leaving the same crest, passes between Ligara and Derveni-Melona, and arrives at the summit of Mount Kritiri. Thence turning towards the south the line gains the right bank of the Xeraghis, and, following the line of watershed towards the south-west, gains the summit of the heights situated to the north of the village of Zarko, then turns to the north-west in the direction of Diminitza and keeps to the line of watershed, leaving to Turkey the village of Eleutherokhorion. Before reaching Diminitza, at a distance of about 18 kilom. from that place, the frontier-line turns towards the west, still on the line of watershed, and passes by the villages of Flamouristi, Gavronon, and Georgitza to the summit of Mount Kratchovo. Then turning southwards by the crest, it passes by the summits of Mounts Zygos, Dokini, and Peristeri, and gains the River Arta, following the stream which carries off by the shortest way the rainfall from the summit of Mount Peristeri to this river, and passing near the villages of Kalarhytes and Mikalitzì. Beyond these last points the line follows the thalweg of the River Arta to its mouth.

Boundary Commission. Mode of Voting.

This delimitation will be fixed on the spot by a Commission composed of the Delegates of the Six Powers and of the two parties interested.

The Delimitation Commission will pass their Resolutions by a majority of votes, each Power having but one vote.

It should meet within eight days after the ratification of the

* See Map.

[Turco-Greek Frontier.]

present Convention, or sooner if possible, so as to commence its labours.*

Cession of Punta to Greece.

ART. II. Punta and its territory, as it was determined by the first Article of the Act signed at Constantinople on the 21st July, 1832 (No. 161), will be ceded to Greece.†

Gulf of Arta; Disarmament of Fortifications; Free Navigation.

All the fortifications commanding the entrance to the Gulf of Arta, both on the side of Prevesa as well as on that of Punta, will be disarmed within three months after the signature of this Convention,‡ and will remain disarmed in time of peace between the two States.

The navigation of the Gulf of Arta will be free.

Inhabitants of Ceded Territories.

ART. III. The lives, property, honour, religion, and customs of those of the inhabitants of the localities ceded to Greece who shall remain under the Hellenic administration will be scrupulously respected. They will enjoy exactly the same civil and political rights as Hellenic subjects of origin.

Rights of Property.

ART. IV. The rights of property on the farms, as well as on the pasturages, meadows, grazing grounds ("kechlak"), forests, and every kind of lands or other real estate, held by private individuals and communes in virtue of firmans, hodjets, tapous, and other titles, or else by the Ottoman law, in the districts ceded to Greece, will be recognized by the Hellenic Government.

The titles of property called vakoufs, which serve to keep up the mosques, colleges, schools, and other pious or charitable institutions, will be equally recognized.

Estates of the Sultan.

ART. V. His Majesty the Sultan shall be enabled, as in the

* This Commission sat from 6th July till 17th November, 1881. For Report of its proceedings made by Major Ardagh, December 1, 1881, see Parliamentary Paper, Greece No. 1 (1882).

† Punta was evacuated by Turkish troops and occupied by the Greeks 10th September, 1881.

‡ Completed by the beginning of November, 1881.

[Turco-Greek Frontier.]

past, to dispose of the Imperial estates, the revenues of which are collected on behalf of His Majesty or of the Imperial family.

In the case of the nature and destination of these properties being contested, the question shall be submitted to the examination of the Commission of which the appointment is contemplated by Article IX of the present Convention, and, eventually, according to the terms of the said Article, to the decision of the Mediating Powers.

Land Owners.

ART. VI. No one may be deprived of his property except for some object of public utility, duly established, in the cases and in the manner provided by law, and in exchange for a fair and prepaid compensation.

No landlord shall be obliged to sell his goods to the cultivators of the soil or to third parties, nor to hand over any portion of them ; nor shall any alteration be introduced into the relations between landlords and the cultivators of the soil, except by a general law, applicable to the whole Kingdom.

Land owners settled outside the Kingdom, and possessing real property in the ceded territories, may let their lands under a lease, or have them administered through third parties.

Pasture Lands.

ART. VII. The inhabitants of the provinces bordering on the territories ceded to Greece, who have been for a long time in the habit of sending their flocks to the meadows and pasture lands, as well as on the farms situated within those territories, shall continue to enjoy these privileges as in the past.

Religious Freedom in Territories ceded to Greece.

ART. VIII. Freedom of religion and of public worship is secured to Mussulmans in the territories ceded to Greece.

No interference shall take place with the autonomy or hierarchical organization of Mussulman religious bodies now existing, or which may hereafter be formed ; nor with the management of the funds and real property belonging to them.

No obstacle shall be placed in the way of the relations of those bodies with their spiritual heads in matters of religion.

Local Courts of the Chéri.

The local Courts of the Chéri shall continue to exercise their jurisdiction in matters purely religious.

[Turco-Greek Frontier.]

Settlement of Disputes : State Property : Private Interests.

ART. IX. A Turco-Hellenic Commission shall be entrusted with the settlement, within two years, of all matters concerning the property of the State, as well as of questions relating to the interests of private individuals, who may happen to be connected with them.

Indemnity to be paid by Greece for Ottoman Government Lands.

This Commission will have to decide on the indemnity which Greece is to pay to Turkey from the lands, which shall be admitted to belong *bonâ fide* to the Ottoman Government, and to fix the annual revenue to be paid on them.

Those questions on which an understanding cannot be come to shall be submitted to the decision of the Mediating Powers.

Greece : Share of Ottoman Debt. Ceded Territories.

ART. X. Greece shall bear a part of the Ottoman Public Debt proportionate to the revenues of the ceded territories. This portion shall be determined ultimately between the Sublime Porte and the Representatives of the Mediating Powers at Constantinople.

Disarmament.

ART. XI. No exclusive and exceptional measure of disarmament shall be taken with regard to Mussulmans.

Brigandage.

ART. XII. The Hellenic Government shall propose to the Chamber a Law for the renewal of the Convention of 1856* (A.H. 1272), relating to the suppression of brigandage.

Emigration.

ART. XIII. The natives of the territories ceded to Greece, or persons actually domiciled in these provinces, who intend to retain Ottoman nationality, shall, for the space of three years from the exchange of the ratifications, and by a preliminary declaration made before a competent authority, enjoy the right of transferring their residence into the Ottoman Empire, and of

* Convention, Greece and Turkey, $\frac{8}{20}$ th April, 1856. See "State Papers," Vol. 56, p. 1389.

[Turco-Greek Frontier.]

establishing themselves there, in which case they shall retain their character of Ottoman subjects.

Those persons emigrating within the above-mentioned period of three years shall continue to enjoy the privilege stipulated for in the third paragraph of Article VI of the present Convention in favour of proprietors settled outside the limits of the Kingdom.

Military Service.

During the same period of three years Mussulmans shall not be liable to military service.

Arrears of Taxes.

ART. XIV. The Commission created in virtue of Article IX of the present Convention is entrusted with the settlement, within the shortest period possible, of the questions relating to arrears of taxes due to the Ottoman Government in the ceded territories, as well as those which might arise from the collection of the taxes during the current year.

Evacuation.

ART. XV. The details of the evacuation and transfer of the ceded territories are settled in a separate Act, which is, and remains, annexed to the present Convention, and will have the same force and value as if it formed part of it.*

The Imperial Ottoman troops are bound to evacuate the ceded territories within the period fixed by this Act.

The Imperial Ottoman Government will, however, endeavour to shorten that period as far as possible.

Technical Commissioners.

ART. XVI. It is understood that the Mediating Powers reserve to themselves the power to appoint Technical Commissioners for the purpose of superintending the operations connected with the cession of the territories.†

Amnesty.

ART. XVII. A full and entire amnesty shall be granted by Turkey and Greece to all persons implicated or compromised in political events anterior to the present Convention, and relating to the question which is settled by it.

* See page 3049.

† See Article III of Annex, page 3051, and Final Act of Evacuation Commissioners of 14th November, 1881 (No. 589), page 3066.

[Turco-Greek Frontier.]

Conclusion of a Similar Convention between Greece and Turkey.

ART. XVIII. The Convention concluded this day between Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India ; His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia ; His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., Apostolic King of Hungary ; the President of the French Republic ; His Majesty the King of Italy ; His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias ; and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans shall be immediately followed by the stipulation of a Convention, containing the same provisions, between His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans and His Majesty the King of the Hellenes (**No. 586**).

Ratifications.

ART. XIX. The present Convention shall be ratified and its ratifications exchanged at Constantinople within three weeks, or sooner, if possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Constantinople, the 24th day of May, in the year 1881.

(L.S.) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

(L.S.) v. HATZFELDT.

(L.S.) CALICE.

(L.S.) TISSOT.

(L.S.) L. CORTI.

(L.S.) NOVIKOW.

(L.S.) SERVER.

(L.S.) MOUKHTAR.

(L.S.) ALY.

(L.S.) ARTIN DADIAN.

ANNEX.

SEPARATE ACT, settling details for Turkish Evacuation of Territories ceded to Greece. Constantinople, 24th May, 1881.

ART.

1. Map of Territories ceded to Greece.
2. Evacuation of Territories by Sections. War Material.
3. Commission to be composed of Military Delegates.
4. Aid and Protection to be afforded to Military Commission.
5. This Act to form an integral part of the Convention signed the same day.

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India; His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia; His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., Apostolic King of Hungary; the President of the French Republic; His Majesty the King of Italy; His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias; and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, being desirous of settling the details and the mode of evacuation, and of the taking possession of the territories ceded to Greece in virtue of the Convention signed this day, have resolved with this view to sign a separate Act in accordance with the terms of Article XV of the said Convention, and have to this effect appointed:—

Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India: the Right Honourable George J. Goschen, Her Special Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia: Paul, Count de Hatzfeldt Wildenburg, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., Apostolic King of Hungary: Henry, Baron Calice, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

The President of the French Republic: Charles Tissot, Ambassador of the French Republic at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

His Majesty the King of Italy: Louis, Count Corti, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias: Eugène Novikow, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans;

And His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans: Mahmoud Server Pasha, President of His Council of State; the Mushir Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, President of the Commission of Inspection of Military Reforms; the Mushir Aly Nyzami Pasha; Artin Effendi Dadian, Under Secretary of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs;

Who, furnished with the necessary powers, have agreed to the following Articles:—

Map of Territories ceded to Greece.

ART. I. The territories to be ceded to Greece are divided into six sections, in accordance with the indications marked upon the annexed map.*

Evacuation of Territories by Sections.

ART. II. The evacuation of one of these sections shall take place within three weeks from the date fixed for the exchange of the ratifications of the Convention signed this day.

Four other sections shall be completely evacuated within three months from the same date.

The sixth section, which comprises Volo, and constitutes the only means of exit by which the Ottoman Government can remove its war material, shall be evacuated during the two following months, that is to say, within the whole period of five months from the date fixed for the exchange of the ratifications of the Convention.

It is understood that these various periods shall be abridged if possible.†

War Material.

The Ottoman authorities will draw up an inventory of that portion of the war material which cannot be removed during the said period of five months.

Commission to be composed of Military Delegates.

ART. III. The Mediating Powers will name Military Delegates, who will constitute a Commission,‡ destined to act as intermediary, for the evacuation by the Ottoman authorities, and the taking over by the Hellenic authorities of the ceded territories.

This Commission will exercise a general supervision over the evacuation and occupation of the ceded territories. It will intervene for the purpose of establishing an agreement between the Commanders on both sides, both as regards the military movements on either side, the fixing the distance which must always

* See Map facing next page.

† The Greek troops crossed the old frontier line and entered the 1st section (Arta) on the 6th July, 1881. The cession of the 6th section (Volo) was completed on the 13th November 1881 (No. 589).

‡ See Final Act signed by the Military Delegates, November 14, 1881 (No. 589).

divide the troops of the two Powers, and the period which must elapse between the evacuation and the taking over of the different points to be ceded.

Aid and Protection to be afforded to Military Commission.

ART. IV. It will be the duty of the Ottoman and Greek authorities to afford aid and protection to this Commission during the accomplishment of its mission.

This Act to form an Integral Part of the Convention signed the same day.

ART. V. The present Act forms an integral part of the Convention signed this day at Constantinople, and will have the same force and value. In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Constantinople, the 24th day of the month of May, 1881.

(L.S.) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

(L.S.) v. HATZFELDT.

(L.S.) CALICE.

(L.S.) TISSOT.

(L.S.) L. CORTI.

(L.S.) NOVIKOW.

(L.S.) SERVER.

(L.S.) MOUKHTAR.

(L.S.) ALY.

(L.S.) ARTIN DADIAN.

[See also Treaty between Turkey and Greece, signed at Constantinople, 2nd July, 1881 (No. 586); and Final Act of the Delimitation Commission, 27th November, 1881, No. 590.]

KONITCH T U R K E Y

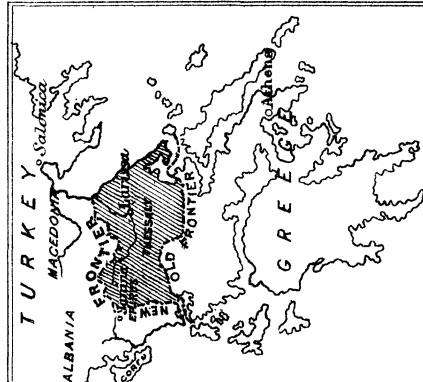
SELANIK KIURFEZY
(GULF OF SALONICA)

Scale. $\frac{1}{1,750,000}$.

27 Miles to one inch.

9 18 27

ANNEXED TO GREECE 1832.



MAP
of the
TURCO-GREEK FRONTIER
to accompany
Convention of 24, May, 1881.

No. 585.—*ADDITIONAL ACT to the Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865, relative to the Navigation of the Mouths of the Danube.* Signed at Galatz, 28th May, 1881.*

ART.

TABLE.

1. Full Powers; Application of previous Treaties, &c., to New Riverain States; Extension to *Galatz* of Attributes, &c., of European Commission.
2. Inspector of *Lower Danube* and his Assistants. Port of *Soulina* excepted. Appointment and Duties of Inspector of Navigation, Captain of Port of *Soulina*, and others.
3. Management of Funds of *Soulina* Navigation. Levying of Dues and Administration of Funds of *Soulina* Navigation.
4. Employment of Sums raised by Dues or Loans.
5. Lighthouses and Light Dues.
6. Sanitary Regulations. Quarantine. Maintenance of River Police during an Epidemic.
7. Sanitary Service at *Soulina*.
8. Neutrality of Staff, Property, and Works. Badges and Flag.
9. Confirmation of Act of 2nd November, 1865, except where Modified. Regulations of Navigation and Police; Navigation Dues.
10. Ratification.

Protocol. Russian and Roumanian Reservations, 28th May, 1881.

Russian Reserve: Left Bank of Kilia Branch.
Roumanian Reserve: Rights of Riverain States. } Page 3059.

(Translation.)

THE Powers represented upon the European Commission of the Danube, in virtue of the Treaty of Paris of the 30th March, 1856 (**No. 264**), and Roumania, who has been empowered to take part in the said Commission by Article LIII of the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th July, 1878 (**No. 530**):—

Being desirous of putting the Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865† (**No. 375**), relative to the navigation of the mouths of the Danube, in harmony with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), to the effect that the said European Commission “shall henceforward exercise its functions as far as Galatz, in complete independence of the territorial authority, and that all

* See also Treaty and Regulations respecting the Navigation of the Danube, 10th March, 1883 (**No. 599**).

† See Appendix.

[Navigation of Mouths of the Danube.]

the Treaties, arrangements, acts, and decisions relative to its rights, privileges, prerogatives, and obligations are confirmed,"

Have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Colonel Herbert Taylor Siborne;

His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, M. Johannes Arendt, his Consul at Galatz, Commander of the Order of Francis Joseph, Officer of the Imperial Orders of Osmanié and of the Medjidié of the Fourth Class;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, and Apostolic King of Hungary, Ernest, Baron de Haan, his Consul at Galatz, Knight of the Order of Francis Joseph, Commander of the Star of Roumania, decorated with the Imperial Order of the Medjidié of the Third Class;

The President of the French Republic, M. Camille-Eugène Pierre Barrère, his Secretary of Embassy, First Class;

His Majesty the King of Italy, M. Nicola Revest, his Consul at Galatz, Knight of the Orders of the Crown of Italy and of St. Anne;

His Majesty the King of Roumania, Staff-Colonel Eustache Pencovici, Officer of the National Order of the Star of Roumania;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, M. Alexandre Romanenko, Councillor of State, his Consul at Galatz, Knight of the Orders of St. Vladimir of the Third Class, of St. Anne and of St. Stanilas of the Second Class, &c.;

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Constantin Effendi Étienne Carathéodory, Councillor of State, Functionary of the First Rank, Second Class, decorated with the Imperial Order of the Medjidié of the Third Class;

Full Powers.

Who, having produced their full powers, found in good and due form, and of which a certified copy remains deposited in the archives of the European Commission, have agreed upon the following provisions additional to the aforesaid Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865* :—

* See Appendix.

[Navigation of Mouths of the Danube.]

*Application of previous Treaties, &c., to New Riverain States.
Extension to Galatz of Attributes, &c., of European Commission.*

ART. I. The rights, attributes, and immunities of the European Commission of the Danube, such as they have been established by the Treaties of Paris of the 30th March, 1856 (No. 264), and of London of the 13th March, 1871 (No. 439), by the Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865,* as well as by the acts and decisions† prior to the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), shall continue to govern its relations with the new Riverain States, and their effect shall extend as far as Galatz, subject to the modifications hereinafter specified.

Inspector of Lower Danube and his Assistants. Port of Soulina excepted.

ART. II. The agent specially appointed to superintend the river police below Galatz, and exclusive of the port of Soulina, shall henceforward bear the title of Inspector of the Lower Danube, and shall, as formerly, be assisted by a Chancellor and by Sub-Inspectors stationed on the different sections of the river under his superintendence, and all placed under his orders.

Appointment and Duties of Inspector of Navigation; Captain of Port of Soulina, and others.

The Inspector of the Navigation, the Chancellor of the Inspection, as well as the Sub-Inspectors of the river sections, the Captain of the Port of Soulina, and all the staff placed under the orders of the last-named official, are named by the Commission by simple majority of votes, and without distinction of nationality. Their appointment can likewise be cancelled by the Commission.

The Inspector of the Navigation and the Captain of the Port of Soulina perform their functions under the direct authority of the Commission, which pays them, and before which they and their subordinates take oath of office.

They decide, as Judges of First Instance, upon contraventions committed within the limits of their respective districts, in matters of police and of navigation, and their decisions are given in the name of the European Commission of the Danube.

* See Appendix.

† See vol. III, Index, under heading "Danube."

[Navigation of Mouths of the Danube.]

Management of Funds of Soulina Navigation.

ART. III. The management of the funds of the Soulina Navigation shall no longer be entrusted to a special agent. It shall be placed exclusively in the hands of the European Commission, or of the authority which may succeed it, and shall be carried on in the manner which is or may be determined by the said Commission or authority.

Levyng of Dues and Administration of Funds of Soulina Navigation.

The method of levyng the dues and the administration of the funds of the Soulina navigation may be modified by an unanimous decision arrived at in plenary session.

Employment of Sums raised by Dues or Loans.

ART. IV. The final provision of Article XIV of the Public Act of 1865* is modified in the following sense—namely, that the prohibition to employ any portion of the sums collected by dues levied on sea-going vessels, or of loans, raised by the hypothecation of these dues, to cover the expense of works or of administrative expenditure in relation to a section of the river lying above Isaktcha, is limited to that part of the river which lies above Galatz.

Lighthouses and Light Dues.

ART. V.† The European Commission is charged with the maintenance and the administration of all the lighthouses forming the system of lighting the mouths of the Danube; consequently, the proportion of the total amount of dues levied at Soulina respecting the light dues, shall belong, without deduction, to the Navigation Fund.

Sanitary Regulations.

ART. VI.† The Sanitary Regulations applicable to the mouths of the Danube, including the tariffs of sanitary dues, shall be elaborated and modified, in concert with the European Com-

* See Appendix.

† See Russian and Roumanian Reservations, page 3059.

[Navigation of Mouths of the Danube.]

mission, by the International Council, to be established at Bucharest.

The present Regulations shall remain in force until otherwise ordered, reserving, however, the right of the European Commission to demand the immediate abrogation of those which may be in opposition to the interests of the navigation and to the principles laid down in Articles XVIII, XIX, and XX of the Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865.*

Quarantine.

In order to determine more exactly the sense of the stipulations of the said Article XX relative to measures of quarantine, properly so called, which are put in force in time of epidemic, it is expressly understood and agreed that these measures are exclusively applicable to vessels and travellers coming from infected localities, and in non-infected ports; and that any exceptional and restrictive measures shall be abolished, with regard to intercommunication between riverain ports, as soon as the epidemic has become general along its banks.

Maintenance of River Police during an Epidemic.

And in order to facilitate, in time of epidemic, the maintenance of the river police, it is further agreed that the Inspector of Navigation, the Chancellor of the Inspection, and the sectional Sub-Inspectors, shall continue, as hitherto, to pass freely to and fro on the river, under the sole condition that they must submit, in case they may have rendered themselves liable to infection ("en cas de compromission"), to the same precautions as are laid down by the regulations for the Health Officers. The same immunities shall be extended, in case of necessity, to the engineers, employés, and workmen of the European Commission.

Sanitary Service at Soulina.

ART. VII.† In regard to matters specially concerning the administration of the sanitary service at Soulina, the International Council at Bucharest shall come to an understanding

* See "State Papers," Vol. 55, p. 93; and Appendix to this Volume.

† See Roumanian Reservation, page 3059.

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with the Commission with respect to the nomination and payment of the sanitary staff, the organization and working of the offices, the establishment and maintenance of a lazaretto, and the method of levying the sanitary dues, and the objects to which shall be devoted the proceeds of these dues, which shall form a special fund.

Neutrality of Staff, Property and Works. Badge and Flag.

ART. VIII. In order to ensure at all times to the staff, as well as to the property and works of the European Commission, the benefits of neutrality guaranteed to them by Article XXI of the Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865,* and Article VII of the Treaty of London of the 13th March, 1871 (No. 439), the engineers, employés, and workmen of the European Commission may be furnished with a badge, bearing on a blue ground the white letters "C. E. D." Moreover, the Commission shall not be compelled to hoist upon its establishments, of whatsoever nature, and upon its boats, any flag other than its own, which is composed of five parallel stripes perpendicular to the staff, arranged in the following order of colour:—red, white, blue, white and red, the blue stripe having a height double that of each of the other stripes, and bearing in white the letters "C. E. D."

Confirmation of Act of 2nd November, 1865, except where modified.

ART. IX. All the provisions of the Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865,* which are not expressly modified by the present Additional Act, retain all their force and efficiency.

Regulations of Navigation and Police Navigation Dues.

The Regulations of Navigation and of Police, and the Tariff of Navigation Dues shall be eventually revised by the European Commission, in order to be placed in accord with the position created by the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

Ratifications.

ART. X. The present Act shall be ratified.

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall give one rati-

* See "State Papers," Vol. 55, page 93; and Appendix to this Volume.

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fication only. The ratifications shall be deposited within a year, or sooner, if possible, in the archives of the European Commission of the Danube.

In witness whereof the respective Delegates and Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Additional Act, and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Galatz, the 28th day of May, 1881.

(L.S.) H. T. SIBORNE.

(L.S.) J. ARENDT.

(L.S.) DE HAAN.

(L.S.) CAMILLE BARRÈRE.

(L.S.) N. REVEST.

(L.S.) PENCOVICI.

(L.S.) A. ROMANENKO.

(L.S.) CONST. ÉT. CARATHÉODORY.

(Translation.)

PROTOCOL. RUSSIAN AND ROUMANIAN RESERVATIONS. *Galatz,*
28th May, 1881.

(Extract.)

Russian Reservation. Left Bank of Kilia Branch.

In proceeding to sign the Additional Act, the Russian Delegate declares, by order of his Government, that he signs the Act in question under the following reserve: the provisions of Articles V and VI of the Additional Act shall not be applicable to the left bank of the Kilia Branch, that is to say, to Russian territory, it being, nevertheless, understood that this reserve cannot alter in any way the stipulations of the Treaties concerning the European Commission of the Danube.

Roumanian Reservation. Rights of Riverain States.

The Delegate of Roumania declares, on his part, by order of his Government, that he signs the Additional Act under reserve of the equality of rights of the Riverain States as regards the provisions of Articles V, VI, and VII of the said Act: it is nevertheless understood that the provisions of Article V shall be applicable, during the duration of the European Commission, to

[Navigation of Mouths of the Danube.]

existing lights only; and that the provisions of Article VII are maintained so far as concerns exclusively the levying of sanitary dues, and the management of the fund which is to be formed by means of the product of these taxes.

The Delegates respectively acknowledge and take note of these declarations and reserves, and it is confirmed that, subsequently to the drafting of the text of Article V, an understanding has been arrived at between the Roumanian Government and the European Commission, in the sense that the levying of the sanitary dues, and the management of the fund to be formed out of their product, shall come into the hands of the Commission.

The Delegates of Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, Roumania, Russia, and Turkey, affix to the Additional Act their signatures and the seal of their arms.

The present Protocol is drawn up and signed in nine copies, of which one is deposited in the archives of the Commission, together with the initialed copy of the Additional Act.

Done at Galatz, the 28th May, 1881.

H. T. SIBORNE.

ARENDT.

E. DE HAAN.

CAMILLE BARRÈRE.

N. REVEST.

PENCOVICI.

A. ROMANENKO.

CONST. ÉT. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 586.—*CONVENTION between Greece and Turkey, for the Settlement of the Frontier. Signed at Constantinople, 2nd July, 1881.*

(Translation.)

IN execution of Article XVIII of the Convention concluded the 24th May, 1881 (**No. 584**), between the Sublime Porte and the Representatives of the Powers co-signatories of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), their Majesties the King of the Hellenes and the Emperor of the Ottomans having agreed to conclude an Act reproducing textually the said Convention, have nominated for that purpose :—

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes, le Sieur A. G. Coundourioti, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans ; and

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Mahmoud Server Pacha, President of his Council of State ;

Who, furnished with the necessary Powers, have agreed upon the following :

[Here follows the Convention with the Annex, which Documents are substantially the same as those which were signed at Constantinople on the 24th May, 1881, between Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey (**No. 584**)].

Done at Constantinople, the 2nd day of July (N.S.), 1881.

(L.S.) A. G. COUNDOURIOTI.

(L.S.) SERVER.

No. 587.—*FINAL ACT of the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, for the Evacuation by the Turks, and for the Occupation by the Greeks, of the First Section (Arta) under the Annex to the Convention of 24th May, 1881 (No. 584), for the Settlement of the Frontier between Greece and Turkey. Signed at Arta, 6th July, 1881.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Final Act for the Evacuation by the Turks and for the Occupation by the Greeks of the First Section.

ON the 6th July, 1881, the Commission appointed in execution of Article III of the Annex to the Convention of Constantinople of the 24th May, 1881 (**No. 584**), met at Arta, in order to establish the evacuation by the Ottoman authorities, and the taking possession by the Hellenic authorities, of the first section of the territories ceded by the Ottoman Empire to the Kingdom of Greece, in conformity with Article I of the Annex.

Present;

For Great Britain—

Major-General Sir Edward Bruce Hamley.
Lieutenant-Colonel Cornelius France Clery.
Major Leopold Victor Swaine.
Lieutenant Edgar Vincent.

For Germany—

Colonel William Blume.

For Austria-Hungary—

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Bach.

For France—

Captain Raymond Eugène Marie Mayniel.
Captain Gaston Dominique Simon Toussaint Bonneau
du Martray.

For Italy—

Lieutenant-Colonel Attilio Velini.

For Russia—

Colonel Vladimir Philippow.

The first Commissioners of the Six Great Powers above mentioned :

In consideration of the Report of the members of the Commission delegated by it to be present at the evacuation of the first section by the Ottoman troops, and at its occupation by the Greek troops,

In consideration of the declaration of the Greek military authority,

Have established :

1. That on the 5th July, the day fixed by the Constantinople Convention of the 24th May, 1881 (No. 584) for the cession of the whole of the first section to Greece, the village of Dimario only was handed over to the Greek troops, the first Ottoman Commissioner having declared that, according to his opinion, the term fixed did not expire until the day following ;

2. That on the 6th July the Greek authorities took possession of the remainder of the first section, evacuated the same day by the troops of His Majesty the Sultan of the Ottomans.

In witness whereof, they have signed the present Final Act.

Done at Arta, in eight copies, the 6th day of the month of July, of the year 1881.

For Great Britain	..	E. B. HAMLEY.
„ Germany	BLUME.
„ Austria-Hungary	..	ED. BACH.
„ France	MAYNIEL.
„ Italy	A. VELINI.
„ Russia	Colonel V. PHILIPPOW.

No. 588.—*FINAL ACT of the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, for the Evacuation by the Turks, and for the Occupation by the Greeks, of the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sections, and of the Punta Territory, under the Annex to the Convention of 24th May, 1881 (No. 584), for the Settlement of the Frontier between Greece and Turkey. Signed at Tchaï-Aghsi, 18th September, 1881.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Final Act for the Evacuation by the Turks and for the Occupation by the Greeks of the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sections, and of the Punta Territory.

THE 18th September, 1881, the Commission appointed in execution of Article III of the Annex to the Constantinople Convention of the 24th May, 1881 (**No. 584**), met at Tchaï-Aghsi, in order to establish the evacuation by the Ottoman authorities, and the taking possession by the Greek authorities, of the territory of Punta, and of the second, third, fourth, and fifth sections of the provinces ceded by the Ottoman Empire to the Kingdom of Greece, in conformity with Article I of the said Convention, and with Article I of its Annex.

Present :

For Great Britain—

Major-General Sir Edward Bruce Hamley.
Lieutenant-Colonel Cornelius France Clery.
Major Leopold Victor Swaine.
Lieutenant Edgar Vincent.

For Germany—

Colonel William Blume.
Captain Adolphus de Deines.

For Austria-Hungary—

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Hermann Bach.
Captain Joseph de Manéga.

For France—

Captain Raymond Eugène Marie Mayniel.
Captain Gaston Dominique Simon Toussaint Bonneau
du Martray.

For Italy—

Lieutenant-Colonel Attilio Velini.

Captain César Paladini.

For Russia—

Colonel Vladimir Philippow.

Lieutenant-Colonel Georges de Poppen.

The first Commissioners of the Six Great Powers above mentioned :

In consideration of the Report of the members of the Commission delegated by the Commission to be present at the evacuation by the Turkish troops of the various sections enumerated above, and at their occupation by the Greek troops,

In consideration of the declaration of the Greek military authority,

Have established that :

The second, third, fourth, and fifth sections, as well as Punta, have been ceded to Greece before the 15th September, the date fixed according to the Constantinople Convention of the 24th May, 1881 (No. 584), with the exception of the portion of the fifth section comprised between Mount Gunica, the Koulé of Zarkos, the summits of Ortadjilar and Zarkos, which Marshal Hidayet continues to occupy with Turkish troops, alleging orders from the Sublime Porte, in spite of the protest of the Commission dated the 15th September, 1881.

In witness whereof, they have signed the present Final Act.

Done at Tchah-Aghsi, in eight copies, the 18th day of the month of September, of the year 1881.

For Great Britain	..	E. B. HAMLEY.
„ Germany	..	BLUME.
„ Austria-Hungary..	ED. BACH.	
„ France	..	MAYNIEL.
„ Italy	..	A. VELINI.
„ Russia	..	Colonel V. PHILIPPOW.

No. 589.—*FINAL ACT of the Military Delegates of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, relative to the Evacuation by Turkey of the Territory ceded to Greece by the Convention of 24th May, 1881 (No. 584). Volo, 14th November, 1881.*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

FINAL ACT of the Operations of the International Military Commission, constituted in execution of Article III of the Annex to the Convention of Constantinople, May 24, 1881,

THE Undersigned, Military Delegates of the Powers Signatory to the Convention concluded at Constantinople on the 24th May, 1881 (**No. 584**), to wit:—

For Great Britain—

Leopold Victor Swaine, Major Rifle Brigade.

For Germany—

Adolphe de Deines, Captain of the Prussian Staff.

For Austria-Hungary—

Joseph, Chevalier de Manéga, Captain on the Staff.

For France—

Raymond Eugène Marie Mayniel, Captain ;

Gaston Dominique Simon Toussaint Bonneau du Martray,
Captain on the Staff.

For Italy—

Attilio Vellini, Lieutenant-Colonel on the Staff ;

Césaire Paladini, Captain on the Staff.

For Russia—

Vladimir Philippow, Colonel on the Staff ;

Georges de Poppen, Lieutenant-Colonel on the Staff.

Having, in execution of Article III of the Annex to the said Convention (**No. 584**), taken part in the operations relative to the evacuation of the ceded districts on the part of the Turkish authorities and troops, and to the taking possession of them by the Hellenic authorities and troops, declare that these

[Turco-Greek Frontier. Evacuation Commission.]

operations have been effected in conformity with the stipulations agreed upon.

Difficulties having, however, arisen relative to the line of the new frontier between Mount Kritiri and the heights to the north-east of the village of Zarcos, near the village of Kritzovali (Gurchova), as well as in the vicinity of the Karalyk-Derbend defiles, the evacuation and taking possession of these districts have not been effected in a definitive manner, and they remain in consequence suspended until the settlement of these difficulties.

In witness whereof they have signed the present Declaration,

Done at Volo, the 14th November, of the year 1881, in eight copies.

For Great Britain	..	LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.
„ Germany	..	v. DEINES.
„ Austria-Hungary..		JOSEPH RITTER VON MANÉGA.
„ France	..	MAYNIEL.
		G. DU MARTRAY.
„ Italy	..	A. VELLINI.
		CÉSARE PALADINI.
„ Russia	..	Colonel V. PHILIPPOW.
		G. DE POPPEN.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

Document signed by General Soutzo, Commanding Greek Army of Occupation, certifying to the Evacuation by the Turks of the Ceded Territory, and its Occupation by the Hellenic Authorities. Volo, 14th November, 1881.

GENERAL SOUTZO, General of Division, Commander-in-chief of the Hellenic army of occupation, certifies that the Ottoman authorities and troops have evacuated the ceded territories, and that the Hellenic authorities and troops have taken possession of them in conformity with the stipulations contained in the Convention signed at Constantinople on the 24th May, 1881, and in the Annex thereto (No. 584).

Difficulties having, however, arisen relative to the line of the new frontier between Mount Kritiri and the heights to the north-

[Turco-Greek Frontier. Evacuation Commission.]

east of the village of Zarcos, near the village of Kritzovali (Gurchova), as well as in the neighbourhood of the defiles of Karalyk-Derbend, the evacuation and occupation of these localities have not been effected in a definitive manner, and they consequently remain suspended until the arrangement of these difficulties.

In witness whereof he has signed the present Declaration.

Done at Volo, the 14th November, 1881, in six copies.

CHARLES SOUTZO, General.

No. 590.—*FINAL ACT of the Commissioners of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, fixing the New Turco-Greek Frontier, under the Convention of 24th May, 1881 (No. 584). Signed at Constantinople, 27th November, 1881:*

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

HIS Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia; His Majesty the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, King of Bohemia and Apostolic King of Hungary; the President of the French Republic; Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India; His Majesty the King of Italy; His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, in carrying out the mediation prescribed by Article XXIV of the Treaty signed at Berlin on the 13th July, 1878 (**No. 530**), on the one hand;—and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans on the other hand;—having concluded a Convention at Constantinople on the 24th May, 1881 (**No. 584**), with the object of arriving at a definitive solution of the question relative to the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontiers, and having decided that the demarcation of these frontiers should be fixed on the spot by a Commission composed of the six neutral Powers and of the two interested parties, the resolutions of which were to be adopted by a majority of votes, each Power having only one vote; &c.:

Their Majesties the Emperor of Germany; the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, &c.; the President of the French Republic; Their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India; the King of the Hellenes; the King of Italy; the Emperor of All the Russias; the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, have appointed as their Commissioners, that is to say:—

His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, M. Charles von Engelbrecht, Captain on the Staff;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, M. George Čanič, Captain on the Staff;

The President of the French Republic, M. Charles Miot, Lieutenant-Colonel of Infantry;

[Turco-Greek Frontier. Delimitation Commission.]

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Mr. Charles John Ardagh, Major of Engineers;

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes, MM. Gerasimos A. Metaxas, Colonel of Engineers; Peter Lykoudis, Captain of Engineers; Nicolas Pounaras, Captain of Artillery;

His Majesty the King of Italy, M. Anthony Boselli, Major on the Staff;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, M. Basil Sollogoub, Colonel on the Staff;

His Majesty the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, MM. Ahmet Tahir Bey, Colonel of the Staff; Salih Bey, Lieutenant-Colonel on the Staff; Issak-Djevded Bey, Major on the Staff; Raif Ali Bey, Major on the Staff;

Who, having exchanged their powers, formed themselves into a Commission for the Demarcation of the new Turco-Greek frontiers at Arta on the 8th July, 1881.

The said Commissioners of the six neutral Powers and of the Powers interested, after having traversed the country and ascertained the frontier-line along its whole length, between the mouth of the Arta and the point where it reaches the Gulf of Salonica, declare by a majority of votes the line fixed in accordance with the following description and conditions:—

ART. I. The Commissioners, having been sent to Arta by their Excellencies the Ambassadors of the Powers, were obliged to commence the work of demarcation at the mouth of the River Arta, and so advance in a reverse direction along the line indicated in Article I of the Convention.

The starting-point of the frontier is the mouth of the River Arta in the Gulf of the same name. Starting from the mouth the frontier-line follows the thalweg of the river, of which the very winding course has a general direction north and south. It leaves to the east the villages of Komeno and Bani, situated on the left bank, which fall to Greece; to the west those of Néokhori, Bakikalamon, Tschapraslu, Kirnikolon, Keramatès, with the monastery of the same name, which remain to Turkey.

The frontier passes the bridge of the Arta not far from the village of the same name, following the trace of a vertical plane cutting the bridge transversely at the keystone of the highest arch.

From the bridge, and for a distance of 5 kilom. up stream

the river runs over a very wide sandy bed, and is divided into several arms; the thalweg follows the most important arm.

Having passed the bridge, the frontier-line turns round the town of Arta to the west and to the north. This town falls to Greece.

It then passes to the west of the monastery of Theotokio, situated on a height which commands the left bank of the river, and which falls to Greece. It passes to the west of the villages Kalentini, Koukoulista, of the monastery of Moukhousa, which fall to Greece; to the east of the villages of Nézéristra, Avaritza, Zavato, Nisista, Politzena, Brodo, which remain to Turkey. It arrives at the stone bridge of Plaka, on which it is determined by the trace of the vertical plane cutting the bridge transversely and passing through the middle of the large arch.

Continuing to follow the thalweg of the river, which on leaving the bridge of Plaka runs through a narrow defile, formed by perpendicular rocks on either bank, it passes through the middle of the large arch of the bridge of Politza, passes to the west of the village of this name, which falls to Greece, and finally arrives at the junction of the stream of Kalarrytais, a tributary on the left of the Arta. The place where the stream falls into the river is called Smixi.

The length of the frontier from the mouth of the Arta to the junction of the stream of Kalarrytais, is 93 kilom., taking into account the windings of the river.

ART. 2. Arrived at the junction of the stream of Kalarrytais, the frontier leaves the thalweg of the Arta and follows the thalweg of the stream, of which the general direction is north-east. It passes to the south of the village of Mikhalitzi, which remains to Turkey; passes through the middle of two small bridges, of which that furthest up stream is called Singouni, over which passes the road from Pramanta to Kalarrytais. From the bridge of Singouni it turns towards the north, passes by the centre of two small bridges thrown across the stream; leaves to the east the village of Kalarrytais, which falls to Greece; leaves to the west the village of Syrrakou, which remains to Turkey; arrives at the point where the stream of Kalarrytais begins, which takes its course a little below the summit of Peristeri, or Djoukarela. The Commission has indicated by a mark the point where the stream, which is still only a ravine, usually without water, reaches the pasturage at the

foot of Djoukarela. From the point whence the ravine starts, the frontier ascends, by the more direct line, to the summit of Peristeri.

The length of the frontier-line from the junction of the stream Kalarrytais to this summit is 28 kilom.

ART. 3. From the summit of Peristeri the frontier, the general direction of which is west and east, follows at first the line of water-parting between the Voïoussa, the Haliacmon, the Arta, the Aspropotamos, and the Salambrias; the Haliacmon, the Arta, the Aspropotamos, and the Salambrias; the Haliacmon and the Salambrias. Lastly, between the Salambrias and its left-hand tributary, the Xéraghis, the frontier follows this line as far as the summit of Kevrédé (indicated by the Turks under the name of Chitropalouki or Sidéropalouki), the point at which it terminates, on the right bank of the Xéraghis.

From the summit of Peristeri or Djoukarela the frontier turns towards the north-east, following at first a crest formed of pointed rocks, which forms part of the western slope of the valley of Dervendista. Having maintained the north-easterly direction for a distance of about 5,000 metres, it turns to the south, then to the east, crosses the col of Hodja Mandria, by which passes the road from Kaliki to Mezzovo; takes, from this col, a south-easterly direction, passing by a crest formed of rounded summits, with gentle, wooded slopes; then, at the end of about 4,000 metres, quits the south-easterly direction and turns towards the north-east and arrives at the summit of Dokimi.

From Dokimi it turns towards the north, passing by the summits of the line of water-parting between the Arta and the Salambrias, and crosses the col of Zygos, which leads to the chief route of communication between Epirus and Thessaly.

From the col of Zygos it passes by the crests of Katarra, of Ziua, turning always towards the north; on the two summits of Mavrovouni it leaves to the north the village of Milia, which remains to Turkey.

Leaving Mavrovouni, it turns towards the east; it passes over a very narrow saddle, whence starts the valley of Djina, which, following a direction north and south, falls into the River Milia, a tributary of the Haliacmon; ascends to the summit of Pade Skunta, takes, in descending from this summit, a northerly direction, which it maintains as far as the summit of the crest

of Sdrianou. Thence it takes an easterly direction, passes over the col of Salatovra, to the north of the village of Kutchuvleni, which falls to Greece, by the col of Stavrodromi; passes by the church of Tsiganes, which is left to Greece; passes over an extended saddle on which is a tomb, called the "Tomb of the Bimbachi," which is situated on the frontier and which remains to Turkey, ascends to the chain of wooded heights on the northern slope of which is situated the village of Baltinon, follows the crest of the heights and passes to the south of this village, which remains to Turkey, turns to the south, then to the east, passes by the summit of Kratchovo, inclines towards the north, and arrives in this direction at a col on which is the church of Ayios Elias, which is left to Greece.

It resumes its general easterly direction, passes to the north of the village of Kakoplevri, which falls to Greece, and to the south of the village of Georghitza, which remains to Turkey. It ascends again towards the north, passes to the west of the village and monastery of Saghiada, which fall to Greece; passes over the summits of Djoumanalta, Noutri, Kefali—where it turns to the east—Krionero, passes to the north of the village of Nostrovo, which falls to Greece, over the summits of Grimina, Lambradika, Tropsa, Nizamides, Bulgari, Zuperkas, Basbani, Tsero, Papasisi, Alonakis, Trapesi, passes to the north of the village of Velemisti, which falls to Greece; passes over the summits of Pirio, Djoumopsili, Doumenika, passes to the north of the villages of Gabrovo and Flamouristi, which fall to Greece; over the summit of Keranios, where it turns towards the south, leaving to the east the village of Tchapournia, which remains to Turkey.

It passes to the north of the village of Kerasia, which falls to Greece, over the summits of Douron, Kamenou, Ayios Elias, where it turns to the east; to the north of the village of Asprik-lisia, which falls to Greece, by the church of Ayia Paraskevi, which belongs to the village of Nubenitza, situated to the north of the church. The village and church remain to Turkey.

It passes to the north of the villages of Klizotadès and Kerasia Sinou, which fall to Greece, passes over a col on which stands the church of Ayios Athanasios, which is left to Greece; over the summits of Poposa, Kerasia, Tsamari, Stavrodromi, Ampelia, passes to the south of the village of Tchouka, which remains to Turkey; by the church of Ayios Elias, which belongs

to the village, and equally remains to Turkey; passes over the summit of Karaoul, passes to the north of the village of Mavreli, which falls to Greece; passes over the summits of Galoni, Sgourou, Drambala, Mitriza, at 2 kilom., from which it passes over a col and turns towards the south.

It passes over the summits of Karaoulitrani, Ignatios, Kounia, Triasinora, Kouki, Pknada, Barberi; over the col called Ebdomekonta Adelphi, or Seventy Brothers, so called from a beech tree situated on the col, and of which the trunk is formed of a large number of smaller stems. This beech tree remains to Turkey.

It passes over the summits of Mamoli, Flambourou, Vouzo, Korabilia, Taba, Tabouria, Gorza, Vrondismeno, Alakes, from whence the frontier follows the somewhat indistinct crest of a broad brow of a hill with gentle slopes. The frontier continues along ground almost flat, and arrives at the col of Stavrodromi, in the midst of a valley.

After passing this col, the frontier-line arrives at the summit of Paleo Castro, on which stand the remains of a cyclopean tower.

Having reached a summit situated 500 metres to the south of the former, the frontier turns to the east, following the crest of the Tsevrekho Hills, passes to the south of the village of Smolia, which remains to Turkey; passes over a col which separates the valley of Vлахouyaniti to the north from that of Vromavris to the south; passes to the village of Panissa, which falls wholly to Greece, although the frontier-line detaches from it the house furthest to the north.

It passes over a summit on which stand the ruins of a church of Ayios Athanasios, turns towards the south on quitting this summit, passes over a summit on which stands a church of Ayios Elias, which belongs to Greece; passes over the summit of Karakitzou; passes to the west of the village of Eleutherochorion, which remains to Turkey; arrives at the commencement of an extended plateau, at a point situated at about 2,500 metres to the north of the village of Grizianon, which falls to Greece, as also the ruins of a Byzantine castle, situated on an eminence at the foot of which the village is built. Arrived at the commencement of the plateau, the frontier takes an easterly direction. It passes to the south of the village of Eleutherochorion.

It passes by the summits of Loura, Zapourla, Kyrie Eleison, Ayios Elias, on which stands a church which remains to Turkey, and arrives at a summit that the Greeks call Koutra, that the Turks call Hohada, and which is the summit of the heights situated to the north of the village of Zarkos.

The frontier-line descends from this summit to a ridge with a rather gentle slope, and following a north-easterly direction, it passes to the east of the Monastery of Djouma, which remains to Turkey, to the south of the village of Damasi, which remains to Turkey. Arrived at a summit situated at about 300 metres from this col, it turns to the east and descends by a gentle slope the eastern side of a long valley situated between the Selambrias and the Xéraghis. It crosses this valley by a col 500 metres long by 1 kilom. broad.

It ascends the west side of the valley to a ridge, the slope of which is rather steep, following a north-easterly direction; arrives at the summit of Sideropalouki, which the Turks call Ortadjiler; then the summit of Kévrédé, which the Turks call Chitropulouki or Sideropalouki, and which is the last summit of the line of water-parting between the Salambrias and the Xéraghis.

The frontier descends from Kévrédé and turns by the most direct line to the well of the mill of Bey-Deïrmeni, which becomes neutral. The mill remains to Turkey. From the well it proceeds by the most direct line, passing to the east of a bridge situated on a canal deriving its water from the Xéraghis, and crossing the bed of this river to the foot of a crag, situated on the left bank, and descending in a south-easterly direction from the summit of Ayios Elias, called Tripmeni by the Turks, and which commands the left bank of the Xéraghis. It ascends, following these rocks, as far as the summit of Ayios Elias.

The length of the frontier between the summit of Peristeri and that of Ayios Elias is 180 kilom.

ART. 4. From the summit of Ayios Elias to the sea, the frontier follows, without leaving it, the crest of Mount Olympus.

From this summit it turns northwards, following the crest of the mountains, passes over the summit of Tripmeni; passes to the west of Tyrnavo, which remains to Greece; leaves to the east a summit called Kritiri by the inhabitants of the country, forming part of a spur which commences at the summit of

[Turco-Greek Frontier. Delimitation Commission.]

Lousphaki at 200 metres north-east of Tyrnavo, and arrives at the summit of Lousphaki.

From this point the frontier-line inclines towards the north-west as far as the summit of Drepani, where it resumes its general direction towards the north.

From Lousphaki it passes over the summits of Mavroi, Drepani, Pappalivado, Ayios Elias, surmounted by a church in ruins, which falls to Greece; passes to the west and to the north of the village of Krizobali, called Gurtchova by the Turks, which falls to Greece.

From the summit situated to the north of this village it passes over five summits and arrives at the col of Derveni Melonna. It passes by a tree encircled by masonry; passes to the south of the guard-house of Bouyouk-Kaschan, which remains to Turkey, and after crossing the saddle and following the crest, it ascends a very long and steep slope arriving at the pointed summit of Mount Ménexé.

From Mount Ménexé it passes, turning always towards the north, over the summits Valetsiko, Psilorekh, from which point it turns towards the east, passes to the south of the Monastery of Strounga, which remains to Turkey, crosses the col of Liaka Tabouria, passes over the summit of Souvlismenos, passes over a saddle which separates the valley of Bazo from that of Argyropoli, leaves to the north the valley of Konispoli, and arrives at the northern summit of the crest of Godaman.

It leaves the rocks of Kokinopetra at a distance of 5 kilom. to the south-east, passes over the rocky summit of Kritaria, crosses the col of Klepht Gédick, passes over the rocky summits of Tabouria, Strouti Gorza, Ayias Elias, on which is a church connected with the village of Nézéros, which is left to Greece. It passes over the summit of Analipsis, to the north of Lake Nézéros, which falls to Greece, turns to the east near the summit of Analipsis, passes over the summit of Ayios Athanasios, which has a church that is left to Greece. The summit of Ayios Athanasios is situated to the north of the village of Nézéros, which falls to Greece.

The frontier crosses the col of Karairda, over which passes the road which goes from Nézéros to the sea. It mounts the wooded and very precipitous shoulder of Trokhalia, passing to the south of the chrome mines which remains to Turkey, and reaches the summit of Vreutopa. It passes over the summits

[Turco-Greek Frontier. Delimitation Commission.]

of Metamorphosis, Pexari, crosses the col of Avriko, on which is a spring, passes over the summits of Trokhala Klari, Palikopri Klari, Tschingri, Kolouvari, Kara Gianni. It leaves to the south the village of Krania, which falls to Greece. It passes over the summits of Sinéro Krania, Koukliksa, Ostria, Karagatsia, Ayios Elias, on which is a church connected with the village of Aigani, situated a little more to the south. The village and its church fall to Greece.

The frontier passes over the summits of Stephani, Trokhala, Akri; passes to the south of the village of Avarnitza, which remains to Turkey; over the summits of Palia, Ampeli, Stalamatia, Akri, Vigla Mikri, and at length reaches Vigla Megali, which is the last summit of the ridge. From this summit it runs towards the sea by the shortest line, crossing the road from Platamona to Tschai-Aghazy, at the point called Xiloporti, and terminates at a point on the shore of the Gulf of Salonica, situated to the south of Platamona, 4,250 metres from that place.

The length of the portion of the frontier comprised between the summit of Ayios Elias (Tripmeni of the Turks) and the sea is 69 kilom.

The total length of the frontier marked out from the mouth of the Arta to the Gulf of Salonica is 370 kilom.

ART. 5. In the foregoing description, when the frontier follows a crest, it is always understood that a mathematical line is meant.

ART. 6. The Commission has merely placed on the frontier-line boundary marks or mounds consisting of pyramids of dry stones.

The Turkish Government has even forbidden any kind of mark being placed between the summit of Koutra of Zarkos and that of Sideropalouki (Ortadjiler of the Turks).

As it is stated in Protocol No. 2, it will be for the Powers interested to replace by common consent by marks of a more durable nature the mounds placed by the Commission, or to build up fresh ones.

ART. 7. The map of the frontier, with a belt of ground of $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilom. in width on each side of this frontier, has been executed to the scale of $\frac{1}{80000}$ by a mixed Sub-Commission selected from the Commission, under the direction of Major Ardagh, Commissioner for Great Britain.

This map consists of fourteen sheets and an index map, and

is executed in eight copies. It is attached as an explanatory document to the present Act, to which it remains annexed.*

ART. 8. The present Act, consisting of eight Articles, is executed in eight copies, with signatures of all the Commissioners affixed for each. The Turkish Commissioner, however, makes his reserves as to those parts of the line which have formed the subject of his protests attached to Protocols 11, 12, 13, 14.

It will be immediately submitted to the approval of the Governments of Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, by their respective Commissioners.

Signed at Constantinople, the $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁵/₇th November, 1881.

J. C. ARDAGH.

VON ENGELBRECHT.

G. ČANIČ.

CH. MIOT.

G. A. METAXAS, under reserve.

BOSELLI.

B. SOLLOGOUB.

TAHIR.

[On the 1st December, 1881, Major Ardagh forwarded to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a General Report on the delimitation of the new Turco-Greek Frontier, which was laid before Parliament in "Greece, No. 1 (1882)." For an account of the Conferences held between the Boundary Commissioners, commencing at Arta, on the 6th July, 1881, and ending at Constantinople on the 27th November, 1881, see the same Paper.]

* The originals of these maps, in 14 sheets, are deposited in the Archives of the French Embassy at Constantinople; but copies of them are preserved in the Archives of the Foreign Office, London. See Catalogue of Maps, Turkey 44B.

No. 591.—*DECREE of the Ottoman Government, recording the Arrangement agreed upon between the Sublime Porte and the Delegates of Foreign Bondholders, respecting the Imperial Ottoman Debt. Constantinople, 20th December, 1881.**

(Translation.)

THE Imperial Ottoman Government, in pursuance of the declaration made by its Representative at the Congress of Berlin, at the sitting of the 11th July, 1878 (**No. 528**), and in conformity with the engagement which it has entered into by the note of the 3rd October, 1880, has, by a subsequent note of the 23rd October of the same year, invited the holders of bonds of the Ottoman Public Debt to select a number of Delegates who should meet as soon as possible at Constantinople in order to come to a direct understanding with the Imperial Government respecting an equitable and practicable arrangement of the Ottoman Public Debt, as well as to the means to be adopted for the repayment of the interest of the Sinking Fund (*des intérêts et des amortissement*) of that Debt.

The holders ("*porteurs*") of the said Debt have responded to that invitation by naming as their Representatives:—

The English and Netherland holders, the Right Honourable Robert Bourke.

The French holders, M. Valfrey, late Political Sub-Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France.

The Austro-Hungarian holders, His Excellency Baron de Myar, late Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Austria-Hungary at Washington.

The German holders, M. Primker, Councillor of Justice.

The Italian holders, M. Mancardi, late Deputy, and Director-General of the Public Debt of Italy.

The said Delegates of these holders presented themselves in the months of August and September of the current year to the Sublime Porte.

* A complete version of this Decree, in the French language, was laid before Parliament in 1882 (*see* Turkey, No. 2 (1882), page 73), and it is also given in "State Papers," vol. 63, p. 115.

[Bondholders.]

The Imperial Government has, on its side, appointed a special Commission charged to treat with the Delegates, and composed of—

His Excellency Server Pasha, President of the Council of State, President of the Commission ;

His Excellency Munir Bey, Finance Minister ;

His Excellency Ohannes Efendi Tchomitch, President of the Court of Accounts ;

His Excellency Wettendorff Bey, Under Secretary of State in the Imperial Ministry of Finance ;

Gescher Efendi, Counsel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ; and

Bertram Efendi, *Mustéchar* of the General Direction of Customs.

The deliberations of the said Commission, commenced on the 1st September, and continued during the months of September, October, November, and December of the current year, having had for result a complete Understanding between the Imperial Commissioners and the Delegates, such Understanding being recorded in the Procès-Verbaux of the Commission bearing the signatures of both Parties. The Government upon the basis of that Understanding hereby decrees as follows :—

[Articles I–VII. Here follows a detailed description of the various Loans.]

ART. VIII. For the service of the Debt determined by Article III, the Government cedes, by these presents, in an absolute and irrevocable manner, commencing from the $\frac{1}{18}$ th January, 1882, and until the complete extinction of the said Debt :—

[Here follow §§ 1 to 4, giving a description of various revenues arising out of or to be derived from Monopolies or Indirect Contributions, namely, the Monopolies of Tobacco (with certain specified exceptions) and Salt ; the tax on Stamps, Spirits, and Fish ; the Silk Tithe ; Customs Receipts ; the Patent Law, and the Temetu Tax.]

Bulgarian Tribute.

§ 5. The Tribute of the principality of Bulgaria—

So long as this tribute shall not have been fixed by the

[Bondholders.]

Representatives of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), the Government will replace it, commencing from the $\frac{1}{3}$ th January, 1882, by an annual sum of £T.100,000 to be taken from the tobacco tithe.

The said tribute being once fixed, should the Sublime Porte think right to apply the whole or part of it to some other purpose, the sum thus disposed of shall be replaced by an equal sum to be taken from the tithe on tobaccos; and, in case that shall not prove sufficient, from some other revenue equally sure.

Surplus of Cyprus Revenues.

§ 6. The surplus of the revenues of the Isle of Cyprus.

In case the surplus of the revenues of the Isle of Cyprus should not be at the disposal of the Imperial Government, it will be replaced, reckoning from the $\frac{1}{3}$ th of January, 1882, by an annual sum of £T. 130,000.

The Council of Administration will have the right of applying the surplus of the tobacco tithe, after deduction of the £T. 100,000 destined to replace the tribute of the principality of Bulgaria, to the payment of the said £T. 130,000 destined to replace the surplus revenues of the Isle of Cyprus; for the remaining amount not covered by this sum, the Minister of Finances will remit to the Council, every half-year, drafts on the Direction-General of the Customs.

*Revenues of Eastern Roumelia.**

§ 7. The revenue of Eastern Roumelia;—now fixed at £T. 240,000, (No. 546), besides the arrears, reckoning from the $\frac{1}{3}$ th March, 1880, the further augmentation of which this revenue is susceptible by the terms of Article V of the Organic Statute (No. 546), and the sum of £T. 5,000 representing the net annual produce of the Customs of the said province. The Council of Administration will receive these said sums, through the medium of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, in the “Caisses” of which they should be deposited.

In case of delay in the payments on the appointed dates, the Imperial Government will use all diligence to re-establish the execution of the engagements of the said province.

* See Law, Eastern Roumelia, 20th December, 1882 (No. 596); and Agreement between the Bulgarian Government and the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt of 3rd November, 1887 (No. 625).

[Bondholders.]

Tombeki Dues.

§ 8. The produce of the *Tombeki* dues, up to the amount of £T. 50,000. To assure to the Council of Administration the receipt of this sum, the Minister of Finances will give every half year to the Council drafts on the Direction-General of the Customs.

Contributions from Servia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Greece.

§ 9. All the sums accruing to the Imperial Government, as contributory portions from Servia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Greece, to the Debt mentioned in Article III, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) and Article X of the Convention of Constantinople of the 24th of May, 1881 (No. 584).

[Here follow Articles IX to XX, containing various details connected with the payments to be made to the Bondholders.]

XXI. The Imperial Government will communicate without delay to the Powers this Decree, which will take effect from the date of its publication,* except in so far as concerns the administration of the ceded Revenues, which will commence from the $\frac{1}{18}$ th January, 1882.

In case the Members of the Council of Administration should not be assembled at Constantinople on the $\frac{1}{18}$ th January, 1882, the present administration of the 6 Indirect Contributions shall continue after that date to administer the said contributions in the name of the Council, until the latter shall be ready to enter upon its functions, in order that in this way there may be no interruption in the march of the administration of the ceded revenues.

MUNIR,
The Minister of Finance.

The Sublime Porte,
28th Monharrem, 1299.

($\frac{8}{20}$ th December, 1881.)

* Published in a Supplement to the "Levant Herald" of 20th December, 1881.

[Bondholders.]

[A Convention was concluded between the Ottoman Government and the Ottoman Bank, on the $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁶/₈th December, 1881, abrogating the Convention concluded on the $\frac{10}{22}$ th/_{nd} November, 1879, between the Imperial Ottoman Bank and certain Bankers of Galata, for the settlement of the Ottoman Foreign and Home Debts; for which see "State Papers," Vol. 73, p. 175.]

No. 592.—*CONVENTION between Russia and Turkey, for the Settlement of the Russian War Indemnity. Signed at Constantinople, 14th May, 1882.*

(Translation.)

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias wishing, in execution of Article IV of the Treaty signed between Turkey and Russia on the ^{27th January} 8th February, 1879 (**No. 542**), to regulate definitively by a Convention the mode of payment of the Russian War indemnity, and the guarantee to be assigned to it, have named for their Plenipotentiaries:

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, on the one part, Mehemmed Assim Pasha, his Muchir, &c.; and Mahmoud Server Pasha, his Muchir, &c.;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, on the other part, le Sieur Eugène Novikow, his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, Privy Councillor, &c.; and le Sieur Theodore de Thoerner, Member of the Council and of the Ministry of Finance, and Director of the Department of the Treasury of the Empire, Privy Councillor, &c.; who, after having communicated to each other their Powers, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

ART. I. The sum of 802,500,000 fr. which, according to Article IV of the said Treaty (**No. 542**), constitutes the amount of the indemnity of the Russian War, shall be paid by the Ottoman Government by means of annual instalments of £T. 350,000. It is agreed that this sum of £T. 350,000 shall be entirely appropriated to the reduction of the capital of the War Indemnity.

In compliance with the wish of the Ottoman Government, the Russian Government, at the same time, consents not to claim interest upon the said capital.

ART. II. The Ottoman Government declares that the stipulated annuity of £T. 350,000 shall be specially derived from the tithe and sheep tax.

ART. III. The tithes and the sheep tax appropriated to the payment of the War Indemnity shall be assigned on those vilayets

[Russian War Indemnity.]

or mutessarifliks in which the Imperial Ottoman Bank possesses branches or agents.

ART. IV. The sums thus assigned to the payment of the War Indemnity in each vilayet or mutessariflik should be 25 per cent. less than the total of the produce of the said taxes in the said localities.

ART. V. The produce of the net total of the said taxes in the vilayets and mutessarifliks alluded to, that is to say, the sum which shall remain after the deduction of the expenses of the collection of the taxes, shall be deposited directly and in full by the local authority charged with the collection of the taxes in the said vilayets or mutessarifliks into the *caisses* of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, or to the agent of the said bank, in virtue of a special and permanent order sanctioned by Imperial Iradé. Nevertheless, if the revenues derived from the sheep and tithe taxes appropriated to the War Indemnity should happen to produce a surplus over and above the 25 per cent. granted, in that case the Imperial Ottoman Bank shall be compelled to hand over to the Ministry of Finance of the cazas, the revenues of which derived from the sheep tax and the tithe ought to be equal, the eventual surplus mentioned above.

If, on the other hand, these said revenues should suffer so great a falling off that the surplus of 25 per cent. could not be realized, then the Ottoman Minister of Finance engages to assign to the Imperial Ottoman Bank new cazas, the revenues of which derived from the tithes and sheep taxes shall suffice to complete the deficit in question.

ART. VI. The Imperial Ottoman Bank shall be bound to make a special arrangement with the Imperial Russian Bank for the operations of the Ottoman Bank at Constantinople respecting the payment of the War Indemnity.

ART. VII. The Director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank shall be obliged, after the signature of the Convention, to retain immediately, in proportion to the receipts from the sheep tax and tithes, the sum assigned for the Russian War indemnity; and he shall hold immediately at the disposal of the local administration the whole surplus of each vilayet, after the part which is due for payment for the War Indemnity shall have been deducted and put aside to be placed to the account of the Imperial Russian Bank.

ART. VIII. The Imperial Ottoman Government engages

[Russian War Indemnity.]

itself to prohibit its Minister of Finance, as well as the administration of the vilayets or of the mutessarifliks, to issue "havales," cheques, or other orders for payment on the sheep tax and on the tithes thus assigned in the localities indicated.

ART. IX. According to the arrangement thus entered into, the share of the sheep tax and of the tithes assigned to the payment of the Russian Indemnity, shall only appear in the Ottoman Budget under the title of Receipts and Expenses ("Irâd masraf").

ART. X. In consequence of Articles III and IV of the present Convention, the revenues indicated below of the vilayets of Aleppo, Konieh, Castamouni, Adana, and Sivas shall be assigned for the payment of the stipulated annuities from which revenues the expenses attending the collection of taxes have already been deducted.

Net Revenues.

	Sheep Tax.	Tithes.	Total.
	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.
Aleppo	40,000	..	40,000
Konieh	138,000	138,000
Castamouni	110,000	110,000
Adana	70,000	70,000
Sivas :—	£ T.		
Sandjak of Sivas	55,000		
Sandjak of Tokad	20,000		
Sandjak of Kara Hissar Charki :—			
Caza de Kara Hissar } ..	4,500	79,500	79,500
Caza de Sou Chekri }	79,500		
	40,000	397,500	437,500

Of this total, £T. 350,000 represents the amount of the annual payment, and the remainder the supplementary guarantee of 25 per cent., in accordance with Articles V and VIII of the present Convention.

ART. XI. The Imperial Ottoman Government reserves to itself the right to substitute, in case of necessity, other localities for the localities designated, after a previous understanding with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, upon the securities for the same payments.

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Official announcement shall immediately be given to the Imperial Russian Government.

ART. XII. The present Act shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at St. Petersburg in the space of two weeks, or sooner if possible.*

In faith of which the Plenipotentiaries of Turkey and Russia have affixed their signatures and the seal of their arms.

Done at Constantinople, the 25th Dzemazi-ul-Akhiré, 1299,
 $\frac{2}{14}$ th May, 1882.

(L.S.) M. ASSIM.

(L.S.) NOVIKOW.

(L.S.) SERVER.

(L.S.) THERNER.

* The Ratifications were exchanged at St. Petersburg, $\frac{\text{June } 30}{\text{July } 12}$, 1882.



No. 593.—*SELF-DENYING PROTOCOL* signed by the Representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, with reference to the Affairs of Egypt. Therapia, 25th June, 1882.

(Translation.)

THE Governments represented by the Undersigned engage themselves, in any arrangement which may be made in consequence of their concerted action for the regulation of the affairs of Egypt,* not to seek any territorial advantage, nor any concession of any exclusive privilege, nor any commercial advantage for their subjects other than those which any other nation can equally obtain.

DUFFERIN.
HIRSCHFELDT.
CALICE.
MARQUIS DE NOAILLES.
L. CORTI.
ONOU.

Therapia, June 25th, 1882.

* Conferences on the Affairs of Egypt were held at Constantinople from 23rd June till 14th August, 1882, and an Abstract of the Protocols is given at page 3089, (No. 594). See also Note, page 3092.

No. 594.—PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, on the Affairs of Egypt and the Suez Canal. Constantinople, 23rd June—14th August, 1882.*

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.

PROTOCOL

- No. 1. *Italian* Ambassador constituted President. Absolute secrecy to be observed. Memorandum addressed to the Porte notifying the constitution of the Conference, and expressing regret at non-participation of *Turkey*, and the hope that co-operation of *Ottoman* Government may be eventually obtained.

Constantinople, 23rd June, 1882.

- No. 2. Self-denying Protocol (No. 593) signed. Exchange of views on general situation in *Egypt*. Constantinople, 25th June, 1882.

- No. 3. *British* and *French* Ambassadors communicate information respecting state of *Egypt*. Further exchange of views. *British* Ambassador makes formal proposal that the Sultan should be invited to send *Turkish* troops to *Egypt* in order to dominate the situation and to suppress the military faction. Plenipotentiaries cannot pronounce on the suggestion without referring to their Governments. Powers to abstain from isolated action in *Egypt* so long as the Conference lasts.

Constantinople, 27th June, 1882.

- No. 4. Discussion respecting armed *Turkish* intervention in *Egypt*. Conference consider the form that intervention should take and the conditions to which it should be subjected. M. de Noailles observed that the part of the business then before the Conference divided itself into three heads—(1) The consideration of the conditions which would attach to *Turkish* intervention; (2) The definition of the ends to which that intervention was to be directed; and (3) The consideration of the "sanction," that is to say, the measures to be held in reserve if the *Turkish* Government refused to acquiesce in the invitation to send troops. Some of the conditions which, in M. de Noailles's opinion, ought to be attached to the intervention of *Turkey*, were:—(1) That a military force should be sent by *Turkey* to *Egypt* on the formal demand of the Great Powers. (2) That distinct assurances would be given by the Sultan that he would

* See "State Papers," vol. lxxiv, pp. 254, 366.

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address his efforts to the restoration of the *status quo*. (3) That no interference should be admitted with the existing Firmans and privileges of *Egypt*. (4) That the period of the occupation should have no fixed limit. (5) That during its continuance there should be no "ingérence" on the part of the Porte in the internal affairs of *Egypt*; and (6) That the situation of the Khedive or of the Khedivship should remain intact and unaffected in its rights and dignity; and he further suggested that it would be necessary to arrive at some conclusion as to who was to command the *Turkish* troops.

Constantinople, 29th June, 1882.

- No. 5. M. de Noailles signifies his acquiescence in the principle of *Turkish* Intervention, provided the Conference could agree upon the conditions by which it was to be regulated. Formula adopted as to the words descriptive of the objects to which *Turkish* Intervention should be directed, namely, the overthrow of the Military faction, and the placing of the Khedive in a position to reconstruct a normal Government and to re-establish the *status quo*. Discussion as to meaning of word "Sanction," namely, whether it would be advisable to hint to the Porte that if it refused to send an expeditionary force, Europe would take the matter into its own hands and act directly in *Egypt*. Conference reserves to itself the right to express an opinion on the subject at the opportune moment. Consideration of the form in which decision should be communicated to the Porte.

Constantinople, 2nd July, 1882.

- No. 6. Object and Conditions of *Turkish* intervention in *Egypt*; the maintenance of the *status quo*; the limitation of the period of the occupation; the payment of the expenses by *Egypt*; the re-organisation of the Army; and the obligation to observe those conditions.

Constantinople, 5th July, 1882.

- No. 7. Terms of communication to Sublime Porte fixing the object and conditions of this intervention of a *Turkish corps d'armée* in *Egypt*.

Constantinople, 6th July, 1882.

- No. 8. Identic Note signed by Ambassadors, embodying the *British* proposal for *Turkish* armed intervention in *Egypt*, under the conditions agreed upon at the sixth meeting of the Conference.

Constantinople, 15th July, 1882.

- No. 9. *British* and *French* proposal to designate the Powers who should be charged to take the measures necessary for the protection of the *Suez Canal*; the Powers so designated to be authorised to decide on the mode and the moment of action. The four other Representatives, being unprepared to enter into a discussion, reserve to themselves the right to refer to their Governments.

Constantinople, 19th July, 1882.

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- No. 10. *Ottoman* Delegates, Saïd Pasha and Assim Pasha, présent themselves to the Conference. Count Corti, after recapitulating the proceedings of the Conference, yields the presidency to Saïd Pasha. Saïd Pasha declares that he accepts in principle the despatch of *Ottoman* troops to *Egypt*. *Ottoman* Delegates promise a reply, at next sitting, to identic note of 15th July.

Constantinople, 24th July, 1882.

- No. 11. Saïd Pasha states that *Ottoman* troops are on the point of starting for *Egypt*. Declaration by *British* and *French* Ambassadors to the effect that their Governments are ready, if necessity arises, "to employ themselves in the protection of the *Suez Canal*, either alone or with the addition of any Power who is willing to assist."

Constantinople, 26th July, 1882.

- No. 12. *Ottoman* Delegates lay before Conference a Declaration, dated 27th July, respecting intervention of *Turkish* troops in *Egypt*. *British* Ambassador brings forward a double communication respecting the presence of *English* troops in *Egypt*, and the demand for a Proclamation declaring Arabi a rebel. *Italian* proposal for the protection of the *Suez Canal*, which is adhered to by Representatives of *Austria*, *Germany*, and *Russia*. *Ottoman* Delegates engage to produce a more categorical Declaration respecting intervention in *Egypt*.

Constantinople, 2nd August, 1882.

- No. 13. *Italian* proposition relative to protection of *Suez Canal* discussed. *English* Ambassador states he has no instructions, but does not reject the proposition. *French* Ambassador reserves his opinion. Amendment of text of preceding telegram. *British* Ambassador presses for a Proclamation declaring Arabi in a state of rebellion ; also complains of the delay in *Turkish* acceptance of the identic note of 15th July. Saïd Pasha engages to give the acceptance on the day following, or the day after that.

Constantinople, 5th August, 1882.

- No. 14. Protocol signed containing the declaration by the *Ottoman* Delegates of the acceptance by the Sublime Porte of the invitation for military intervention in *Egypt* made in the identic note of 15th July, as well as the clauses and conditions contained therein.

Constantinople, 7th August, 1882.

- No. 15. Discussion of *Italian* proposition regarding the protection of the *Suez Canal*. Representatives of *Germany*, *Austria*, *Russia*, and *Turkey* confirm their assent to it. *British* Ambassador states that his Government adheres to it on the understanding that the effects of the *Italian* proposal shall be limited to the present emergency, and shall not prevent *England* or the other Powers from landing troops and from holding certain posts necessary for the security of the Canal. England reserves entire liberty of action in regard to military movements necessary for the

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re-establishment of the authority of the Khedive. *French* Ambassador, with reference to *Italian* proposal, states that he expects instructions shortly. *British* explanation as to occupation of Suez by *British* forces. *Turkish* troops start immediately, but will not land in *Egypt* before the arrival of the Commissioner and the General-in-Chief.

Constantinople, 10th August, 1882.

- No. 16. All the members of the Conference, except the *French* Ambassador, having given and confirmed their adhesion to the *Italian* proposal respecting the *Suez Canal*, the *French* Ambassador declares that he also assents to it, reserving, however, entire liberty of action as regards the measures *France* may be called upon to take. Conference agree to further *Italian* proposition to the effect that the Commanders of the Naval Forces shall be charged with the establishment of rules in order to the execution of the proposal adopted by the Conference. Representatives of the Powers are of opinion that the labours of the Conference may be suspended, but *Ottoman* Delegates do not share that opinion, and reserve the right of appointing a date for the next sitting.

Constantinople, 14th August, 1882.

[See Protocols of Conferences held in London from 28th June till 2nd August, 1884, modifying the Egyptian Law of Liquidation of 17th July, 1880, and relating to the Finances of Egypt, Indemnities, Suez Canal, Integrity of Egypt, Rights of the Sultan, Sanitary Affairs, and Public Debt (Appendix). See also Protocols of Conferences and Proces-Verbaux, respecting the Suez Canal, held at Paris from 30th March till 13th June, 1885 (Appendix). A Convention was signed between Great Britain and Turkey, respecting the Affairs of Egypt and the Suez Canal, on 22nd May, 1887, but it was not ratified. See Parliamentary Paper, "Egypt, No. 7 (1887)."]

No. 595.—*PROTOCOL of a Meeting of the Commissioners of Turkey and Greece, recording the consent of Turkey to surrender to Greece the four contested points on the Frontier.* Tirnova, 7th November, 1882.*

(Translation.)

Commissioners Present :

For Greece—

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Séhos,
Captain C. B. Lapountzakis, and
Captain P. S. Lycoudis.

For Turkey—

Major Raïf Bey,
Major Husni Effendi, and
Onnik Effendi Minédjian, Secretary of the Commission.

The Commission met at Tirnova in the autumn of 1882, and eventually, on the 7th November, it came to the following unanimous decision :

“ Conformably to the arrangement come to at Constantinople between the two Governments (**No. 586**), the Commission will forthwith proceed to put the Hellenic authorities into full possession of all the Territory given up to Greece, according to the Map of the European Boundary Commission.†

“ After having established the complete occupation, by the respective troops, of all the points of the frontier between Kara-Ali-Derbend and Koutra, according to the indications of the aforesaid map, the Commission will examine every proposal which shall be made by the Ottoman Commissioners with reference to the fourth point, and, in this case, the Greek Commissioners will apply to their Government in order to give their vote.

“ With regard to the verification of the posts situated on the remainder of the frontier starting from Koutra, the Commission

* See Final Act of Evacuation Commission, 14th November, 1881, (**No. 589**), page 3067.

† See Map facing page 3052.

[Boundary.]

will act in conformity with the decision arrived at in the sitting of the ^{24th October}_{5th November}.

“The Commission decides to proceed forthwith to Kara-Ali-Derbend in order to commence at that point the evacuation by the Ottoman troops and the giving up to the Hellenic authorities of the four contested points of the frontier.

“The meeting is closed at 4 o'clock.”*

J. SÉHOS.

C. B. LAPOUNTZAKIS.

P. S. LYCOUDIS.

RAÏF.

HUSNI.

MINÉDJIAN, *Secretary of the Commission.*

* See Final Act of Evacuation Commission, 14th November, 1881 (No. 589), page 3067.

[Eastern Roumelian Tribute.]

No. 596.—*LAW passed by the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia, altering § 1 of Annex 9 to the Organic Statute of 26th April, 1879 (No. 546), respecting the Revenues of the Principality, and the Annual Remittances to be made to Turkey. 20th December, 1882.*

(Translation.)

ART. I. The annual revenues of Eastern Roumelia, exclusive of those reserved for the Empire, of the amounts collected on behalf of third parties or on special account (*compte tiers ou recettes d'ordre*), and of the expenses for the collection of the taxes, are estimated at £T. 600,000 for a period of five years, commencing from 1st March, 1883.

ART. II. Out of these revenues, and conformably to Article XVI of the Organic Statute (**No. 546**), £T. 180,000 are annually reserved to the Imperial Government by the Direction of the Finances. The payments are made monthly: the 1st of each month (o.s.) a sum of £T. 15,000 is paid to the Ottoman Bank for the preceding month.

ART. III. Every five years the valuation of the revenues, referred to in Article I, will be modified according to the results obtained during the preceding five financial years.

The tribute of the province shall be estimated always on the basis of three-tenths of the revenues, exclusive of those reserved for the Empire, of the amounts received on behalf of third parties, or on special account (*compte tiers ou recettes d'ordre*), and of the expenses for the collection of the taxes.

ART. IV. £T. 5,000, representing the nett annual produce of the Customs, are added to the £T. 180,000 stipulated for in Article II, and are paid to the Central Imperial Government, according to the provisions of Article II.

ART. V. The Governor-General, in his Privy Council, and after having taken the advice of the Permanent Committee, has the right to take the necessary Treasury measures to effect regularly the monthly payments enunciated in Article II. The interest and expenses entailed by these financial operations will be paid out of the reserve fund.

[Eastern Roumelian Tribute.]

ART. VI. The first six Articles of the 9th Annex to the Organic Statute (Page 2864) are annulled.

20th December, 1882.

[See Arrangement between the Porte and Bondholders of 20th December, 1881 (No. 591), and Resolution of the Bulgarian Government respecting the Eastern Roumelian Tribute, of 3rd November, 1887 (No. 624).]

The total sum paid by the Eastern Roumelian Government to the Sublime Porte as Tribute up to September, 1885, was 75,020,742 piastres gold (100 = £T. 1), or, in francs, at 88 pias. = 20 frs. 17,050,169 —

Since that time the following sums have been paid:—

(a.) For arrears from 1st September, 1885, to 30th December, 1887 (£T. 177,292 $\frac{58}{100}$), a sum has been paid on account amounting to							291,666	67
(b.) Tribute for 1888							2,951,000	—
,, 1889							2,951,000	—
,, 1890							1,721,416	62
Total francs							24,965,252	29

No. 597.—*PROTOCOL between the Turkish and Montenegrin Boundary Commissioners, for the Demarcation of the Frontier from Lake Scutari to Gradiste, near Podgoritzæ.* Cettingé, 10th January, 1883.*

(Translation.)

At the opening of the sitting, the Montenegrin Delegates announce that, by order of His Highness the Prince, the Government of the Principality agree to the demarcation, for the present, of the frontier from Lake Scutari to Gradiste, under the following conditions :—

1. The frontier will start, on the north-east of Lake Scutari, from point XIX on the British Commissioner's map, and will follow the line agreed upon by the European Commission as far as 2 kilomètres to the south of point XX of the same map; thence the frontier will run towards a point situated at an equal distance from the villages of Goshik and Matagoush, leaving the latter to Turkey. Then, winding round the villages of Matagoush and Vladnja, it will rejoin the line of the European Commission, 4 kilomètres beyond point XXIII of the English map.

Thence it will run in a straight line towards the River Zem, which it will reach at 100 mètres to the west of the bridge, *sub* No. XXIV, which will remain to Turkey. It will then continue towards a point situated at 100 mètres to the south of the ruins of the houses of Omer Bojo, which it will leave to Montenegro, and will start from thence to the point of Gradiste on the above mentioned map.

2. This line is accepted by Montenegro on condition that the work of placing landmarks be commenced forthwith (in a fortnight at the latest), firstly, from point XIX of the English map, as far as Gradiste; and secondly, on the line situated between the lake and the sea. The Commissioners of the two States may nevertheless come to an understanding for the simultaneous placing of the boundary-marks over the two lines aforesaid.

* See Map, facing page 3140.

[Montenegrin Boundary—Lake Scutari to Gradiste.]

3. If through the neglect of the Ottoman Commissioners, except from unavoidable circumstances, the setting of the boundary-marks is not proceeded with within the period above stated, the Government of the Prince will consider itself released from any former engagement respecting the villages of Matagoush and Vladnja, and will return, purely and simply, to the Granville line.*

4. The two parties will engage, to present, at the proper time and place, for the sanction of the signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), the line agreed upon in Article I.

Bedri Bey declares that he accepts, in the name of his Government, the above-mentioned propositions.

Signed at Cettingé, ^{29th December, 1882.}
10th January, 1883.

[Here follow the Signatures.]

[See Subsequent Arrangements of 29th August and 1st September, 1883 (**No. 603**); 21st December, 1884 (**No. 605**); July 1887 (**No. 621**).

* See also Despatch, 2nd October, 1880 (**No. 578**), page 2997.

No. 598.—*PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Representatives* of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, with reference to the execution of Articles LIV and LV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), relative to the Navigation of the Danube. London. 8th February—10th March, 1883.*

ANALYSIS OF PROTOCOLS.

PROTOCOL.

No. 1. Earl Granville elected President. Mr. J. A. Crowe to be Secretary. Musurus Pasha not present at sitting as he had not received his full powers. Proposal by Earl Granville that Conference should meet again on 10th February, agreed to.

London, 8th February, 1883.

No. 2. Deliberations to be secret. Observations by *Russian* Plenipotentiary as to the order in which the three questions† before the Conference should be dealt with. *Russian* demand that the original order be maintained and that the discussion of Article LIV of the Treaty should precede that of Article LV. After observations by other Plenipotentiaries, Baron Mohrenheim states that if it be admitted that the declarations which may be made on the subject of Article LV are provisional, and subject to be revoked in the event of an understanding not being

* The Plenipotentiaries were:—

For Great Britain :	{ Earl Granville.
„ Austria-Hungary :	{ Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.
„ France :	{ Count Károlyi.
„ Germany :	{ M. Tissot.
„ Italy :	{ M. Camille Barrère.
„ Russia :	{ Count Münster.
„ Turkey :	{ Count Nigra.
„ For Servia (admitted to the Con-	{ Baron Mohrenheim.
ference with a consultative	{ Musurus Pasha.
voice only) :	{ M. Marinovitch.

† The three questions were:—

1. The extension of the powers of the Commission to Ibraïla ;
2. The confirmation of the Regulations drawn up in virtue of Article LV of the Berlin Treaty ;
3. The prolongation of the powers of the European Commission.

[Navigation of the Danube.]

PROTOCOL.

arrived at with regard to Article LIV, he will be content with the reservation. Protocol of last sitting adopted. Despatch read in which the Envoy of *Roumania* claims the right of his Government to be represented on the Conference (Annex). Lord Granville advocates the admission of *Roumania* on the same footing as the Great Powers. *German* objection, and proposal to the effect that *Roumania* be admitted only as a guest. Majority in agreement with *German* Plenipotentiary, who is requested to draw up his proposal in the form of an amendment. *Servia* to be admitted on the same footing as *Roumania*. With regard to *Bulgaria*, the *Turkish* Plenipotentiary is to receive and bring before the Conference all the demands of the Principality. Count Münster's amendment read and accepted. *Roumanian* and *Servian* Plenipotentiaries, Prince Ghien and M. Marinovitch, are admitted. Prince Ghien states that his instructions are only applicable in the case of his being admitted to the Conference with deliberative voice, and he begs that the decision arrived at may be communicated in writing in order that it may be forwarded to his Government. M. Marinovitch expresses himself in the same sense. Extension of the powers of the Commission to *Ibraïla* accepted by the Conference subject to the condition that the prolongation of the Commission is finally accepted. With regard to the Regulations drawn up by the *European* Commission for the section of the *Danube* between the *Iron Gates* and *Galatz*, the *Austrian* Plenipotentiary states that he has to accept the Regulations, but draws the attention of the Conference to two principal points, viz., the participation of *Austria-Hungary* in the Mixed Commission, and the executive character of the said Commission. The other Plenipotentiaries accept the Regulations. *Austrian* modifications to be discussed at a later sitting.

London, 10th February, 1883.

- No. 3. On the question of the adhesion to the Regulations being again brought forward, in reply to a question by Baron Mohrenheim, the *Turkish* Plenipotentiary states that his adhesion is subject to the maintenance of the reservations made by his Government when signing the Regulation of *Galatz*. Protocol of last sitting adopted. M. Marinovitch states that his Government has authorized him to accept the position assigned to him by the Conference. Note read from *Roumanian* Representative to the effect that he can take no part in the Conference (Annex). Discussion as to maintenance of decision with regard to *Roumania*. *Italian* Plenipotentiary explains that the reason for excluding *Roumania* consists in the fact that the Conference considers itself a continuation of the Congress of *Berlin* in which *Roumania* did not take part as Signatory. Conference agrees to inform *Roumania* of the motives of its decision.

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Draft of a declaration read by *Austrian* Plenipotentiary recording the agreement of the Conference to the Regulations. Discussion as to use of word "exécutoire." Text of collective declaration finally adopting the Regulations drawn up and signed. *Bulgarian* note read (Annex). Conference agree that there is no reason to change the decision with regard to the Principality. *Austrian* Plenipotentiary communicates the concessions which his Government are prepared to make.

London, 13th February, 1883.

No. 4. *Servian* Minister states that his Government hold to their assent already given to the Regulations. Communication from *Bulgarian* Delegates to the effect that their Government is unable to accept the position accorded to them (Annex). *Roumanian* and *Bulgarian* Delegates to be informed that the communication of the Protocols of the Conference was made on the condition of the most absolute secrecy. *Servian* Minister makes a request that his Government should have a permanent seat on the *European* Commission. After a discussion, in which the majority of Plenipotentiaries are opposed to *Servian* request, the Conference decide not to accede to it. Discussion on the question of the *European* Commission. Conference unanimously in favour of the prolongation of its powers, but the *Russian* Plenipotentiary intimates that, in consequence of the changed state of things in the countries of the *Lower Danube*, certain modifications in regard to the *Kilia Branch* have become necessary. Discussion of proposals adjourned.

London, 20th February, 1883.

No. 5. Discussion of proposals made by *Russian* Plenipotentiary at last meeting. Earl Granville communicates the modifications to which the *British* Government would consent, as follows:—

(1) Commission not to exercise control over those portions of *Kilia Branch* of which both banks belong to one State.

(2) Regulations in force on *Souline Branch* to be applied to mixed part of *Kilia Branch*.

(3) Agents of Commission to circulate freely in *Kilia Branch*.

(4) Plans of works on *Kilia Branch* undertaken by *Russia* to be communicated to Commission. Works at Tchatal of *Ismail* to remain under the control of Commission.

(5) Regulations as to tolls levied by *Russia* also to be communicated to Commission.

(6) Differences of opinion between *Russian* authorities and *European* Commission to be submitted to the Powers.

(7) Treaties, &c., relating to the *Danube* maintained except where abrogated or modified by above stipulations.

Russian Plenipotentiary accepts Article 1; he also accepts Article 2 on the understanding that the *Souline* Regulations

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are to be taken only as a basis for those for the *Kilia Branch*; Article 3 is accepted without debate; Article 4 altered so as to embrace works undertaken by *Roumania*; Article 5 accepted by Baron Mohrenheim subject to approval by his Government. Text of propositions adopted excepting reservations of *Russian* Plenipotentiary. London, 24th February, 1883.

No. 6. *Russian* Plenipotentiary, replying to Earl Granville, regrets that he has not yet received final instructions from his Government respecting questions reserved at last sitting; he however confirms the Articles voted, except Article 5 which remains reserved. In connection with Article 7 the *Turkish* Plenipotentiary requests that it may be placed on record that Articles XI and LII of the Treaty of *Berlin* respecting the demolition of fortresses are maintained. Earl Granville states that Article LII of the *Berlin* Treaty is included in the Treaties, &c., mentioned in Article 7 of the propositions voted by the Conference. Protocol of last sitting adopted. Question of prolongation of powers of *European* Commission. *British* Plenipotentiary expresses himself in favour of giving the Commission a character of absolute permanency, but as this would not obtain a unanimous vote it is agreed that the powers shall be prolonged for a term of 21 years, with a clause of tacit prolongation. London, 1st March, 1883.

No. 7. *Russian* Plenipotentiary presents a new draft of Articles 4 and 5, viz. :—

Art. 4. Addition as follows: Differences of opinion between *Russian* or *Roumanian* authorities and *European* Commission respecting works to be undertaken in the *Kilia Branch* to be submitted to the Powers direct.

Art. 5. No restriction in the matter of tolls to be placed upon *Russia*. *Russia* will however put the Governments represented in the *European* Commission in possession of the Regulations respecting the tolls introduced by her.

German, Austrian, French, Italian, and Turkish Plenipotentiaries accept draft. *British* Plenipotentiary obtains from *Russian* Plenipotentiary a declaration that an agreement will be necessary among the Powers before the system of tolls can come into force. Further amendment of Article 4 to the effect that differences of opinion in the Commission respecting extension of works at *Tchatal of Ismail* to be submitted to the Powers direct. Article 3 of proposals need not be inserted in Treaty, but is inserted in present Protocol as follows: "It is understood that the Agents of the *European* Commission may, for their information, visit the whole of the *Kilia Branch* and its mouths." Extension of powers of Commission to *Ibraïla* to form a special Article in the Treaty. Conference agree that the nomination of the *Bulgarian* Delegate on the *Mixed* Commission shall be

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submitted for the approval of the Sublime Porte. Duration of Mixed Commission to be the same as that of *European* Commission. Sub-Inspectors to be appointed and paid by Riverain States. Jurisdiction of Consuls over vessels of their country not to be restrained by Clauses 13 to 16 and 43 to 45 of the Regulations. *British* Plenipotentiary to call upon Riverain States for their adhesion to decisions of Conference.

Lóndon, 7th March, 1883.

- No. 8.** *Russian* Plenipotentiary raises a question as to connection between the *European* and Mixed Commissions. *British* Plenipotentiary understands that the prolongation of the *European* Commission is not dependent upon the modifications which may be made in the Mixed Commission. Protocol of last sitting adopted. Recognition of services of President. Thanks to Secretary. Conference cannot accede to request of *Servian* Minister to be allowed to sign the Protocols. Treaty signed and sealed
(No. 599). London, 10th March, 1883.
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No. 599.—*TREATY between Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, relative to the Navigation of the Danube. Signed at London, 10th March, 1883.*

[Ratifications exchanged between Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, and Italy, 21st August, 1883; between Great Britain, &c., and Russia, 24th August, 1883; and between Great Britain and Turkey, 25th October, 1883.]

ART.

TABLE.

1. Extension of European Commission to *Ibraïla*.
2. Prolongation of Powers of European Commission. Duration of European Commission.
3. Non-control of Commission over certain portions of *Kilia Branch*.
4. *Kilia Branch*, between *Russia* and *Roumania*. Regulations for Management.
5. *Kilia Branch*: Works undertaken by *Russia* or *Roumania*. *Tchatal* of *Ismail*. Plans of New Works.
6. Understanding with *Russia* as to Tolls to be levied on *Sulina* or *Kilia Branch*.
7. Regulations for Navigation, Police, &c., between *Iron Gates* and *Ibraïla*.
8. Confirmations of former Treaties and Acts.
9. Ratifications.

Annex to Treaty of 10th March, 1883.

Regulations for the Navigation, River Police, and Superintendence, applicable to that part of the *Danube* which is situated between the *Iron Gates* and *Ibraïla*.

I.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE NAVIGATION.

1. Free Navigation between *Ibraïla* and the *Iron Gates*.
2. Tolls and Dues.
3. Port Dues.
4. Construction of Bridges.
5. Mills, Fishing Establishments, and Irrigation Wheels.
6. Customs Limits. Customs Dues on Goods discharged on Banks.
7. Free Transit of Goods. Custom-House Officers.
8. Ships' Papers. Coasting and Port to Port Trades. Small Craft and Fishing Boats.
9. Towing-paths.
10. Quarantine. Bills of Health. River Police.

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II.—POLICE.

Chapter 1.—*General Provisions.*

ART.

- 11. Merchant Steamers. Duty towards Inspectors, &c.
- 12. Service Boats. Flag.
- 13. Duty of Captains and Crews towards Inspectors, &c.
- 14. Measurement of Rise and Fall of Waters in the River.
- 15. Jurisdiction in respect of Differences between Captains and Crews.
- 16. Stranding of Vessels. Wrecks and Salvage.
- 17. Marking of Places, &c., at which Vessels are forbidden to Anchor.
- 18. Vessels Anchored or Moored to the Bank. Dangers to Navigation.

Chapter 2.—*Rules for Vessels crossing or passing one another. Tugs, &c.*
19–27.

Chapter 3.—*Rules relative to Tracking from the Banks.*
28–30.

Chapter 4.—*Rules for Navigation at Night or in a Fog.*
31–33.

Chapter 5.—*Rules for Vessels at Anchor.*
34–39.

Chapter 6.—*Rules in respect of Cases of Stranding and Shipwreck.*
40–45.

Chapter 7.—*Rules for the Discharge of Ballast.*
46–47.

Chapter 8.—*On the Lighterage of the River Trade.*
48.

Chapter 9.—*On Towage.*
49–52.

Chapter 10.—*On the Police of the Ports.*
53–65.

Chapter 11.—*On Pilotage in the River.*
66–71.

Chapter 12.—*Of Offences.*

SECTION (A).—ASSESSMENT OF FINES.

§ 1. *Offences against the General Administration of the Navigation.*
72.

§ 2. *Offences in respect of the River Police.*
73–80.

§ 3. *Offences in respect of the Police of the Ports.*
81–85.

§ 4. *Offences committed by Licensed Pilots.*
86.

§ 5. *Abusive Language and Assaults.*
87.

SECTION (B).—RULES FOR THE INFLECTION OF FINES.

88–95.

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III.—EXECUTION AND SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE REGULATIONS BY
“MIXED COMMISSION OF THE DANUBE.”

ART.

96. Constitution of *Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian, Roumanian, and Servian* Mixed Commission. Presidency. Participation of a Member of the European Commission in Work of Mixed Commission.
97. Powers of Mixed Commission.
98. Sitzings of Mixed Commission. Decisions by Majority.
99. Cost of Administration.
- 100 }
to } Officers.
102. }
- 103 }
and } Division of the River into Sections.
104. }
105. Ports or Trading Places.
106. Judicial Police.
107. Meetings to be held at *Giurgevo*.
108. Modification of Articles.

(Translation.)

In the Name of Almighty God!

THE Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, having deemed it necessary to assemble their Plenipotentiaries in Conference at London,* in order to come to an understanding as to the decisions to be taken in virtue of Article LIV of the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), and in respect of the execution of Article LV of the same Treaty, concerning the navigation of the Danube from the Iron Gates to its mouths, have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honourable Granville George, Earl Granville, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c. ; and Lord Edmond George Petty Fitzmaurice, Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c. ;

His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia, George Herbert, Count Münster, his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Her Britannic Majesty ;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., and Apostolic King of Hungary, Louis, Count Károlyi of

* Conferences were held in London from the 8th February till the 10th March, 1883 (No. 598).

[Navigation of the Danube.]

Nagy-Károly, his Ambassador Extraordinary to Her Britannic Majesty, &c., &c.;

The President of the French Republic, Charles Tissot, Ambassador of the French Republic to Her Britannic Majesty, &c., &c.; and Camille Barrère, Minister Plenipotentiary of the second class, French Delegate on the Danube Commission, &c., &c.;

His Majesty the King of Italy, Count Constantine Nigra, his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Her Britannic Majesty, &c., &c.;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, Arthur, Baron Mohrenheim, his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Her Britannic Majesty, &c., &c.;

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Constantine Musurus Pasha, Muchir and Vizier of the Empire, his Ambassador and Plenipotentiary to Her Britannic Majesty, &c., &c.;

Who, after exchanging their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following Articles:—

Extension of European Commission to Ibraïla.

ART. I. The jurisdiction of the European Commission of the Danube is extended from Galatz (No. 530) to Ibraïla.

Prolongation of Powers of European Commission.

ART. II. The powers of the European Commission are prolonged for a period of 21 years, dating from the 24th April, 1883.*

Duration of European Commission.

At the expiration of the said period, the powers of the said Commission shall continue in force by tacit prolongation ("tacite réconduction") for successive terms of three years, unless one of the High Contracting Parties should notify, one year before the expiration of one of these terms of three years, the intention of proposing modifications in the constitution or in the powers of the Commission.

* Till 24th April, 1904. See also Declaration of 23rd April, 1883 (No. 600).

Non-control of Commission over certain Portions of Kilia Branch.

ART. III. The European Commission shall exercise no effective control over those portions of the Kilia branch of which both banks belong to one of the Riverain States of that branch.

Kilia Branch, between Russia and Roumania. Regulations for Management.

ART. IV.* With regard to that portion of the Kilia branch which flows between Russian and Roumanian territory, and in order to insure uniformity in the management of the Lower Danube, the regulations in force on the Sulina branch shall be applied under the superintendence of the Russian and Roumanian Delegates of the European Commission.

Kilia Branch. Works undertaken by Russia or Roumania.

ART. V.* In case Russia or Roumania should undertake works in the Kilia branch, either in the part which divides their respective territories, or that which flows exclusively within the territories of either of them, the competent authority shall communicate the plans of these works to the European Commission with the sole view of establishing that they do not interfere in any way with the navigable state of the other branches.

Tchatal of Ismail.

The works which have already been carried out at the Tchatal of Ismail, remain at the charge and under the control of the European Commission of the Danube.

Plans of New Works.

Should there be a difference of opinion between the Russian or Roumanian authorities and the European Commission respecting the plans of works to be undertaken in the Kilia branch, or a difference of opinion in that Commission respecting any extension that it might be advisable to make in the works at the Tchatal of Ismail, the case shall be submitted directly to the Powers.

* See Procès-Verbal of Russo-Roumanian Commission of 1st December, 1878 (No. 540) ; and Additional Act of 28th May, 1881 (No. 585).

[Navigation of the Danube.]

Understanding with Russia as to Tolls to be levied on Sulina or Kilia Branch.

ART. VI. It is understood that there shall be no restriction upon the right of Russia to levy tolls intended to cover the expenses of the works undertaken by her.

Nevertheless, with the view of providing a safeguard for the reciprocal interests of the navigation on the Sulina branch and on the Kilia branch, the Russian Government shall put the Governments represented in the European Commission in possession of the Regulations respecting the tolls which they may think it advisable to introduce, so as to insure an understanding on the subject.*

Regulations for Navigation, Police, &c., between Iron Gates and Ibraïla.

ART. VII. The Regulations for navigation, river police, and superintendence drawn up on the 2nd June, 1882, by the European Commission of the Danube, assisted by the Delegates of Servia and Bulgaria, are adopted in the form annexed to the present Treaty,† and declared applicable to that part of the Danube which is situated between the Iron Gates and Ibraïla.

Confirmations of former Treaties and Acts.

ART. VIII. All the Treaties, Conventions, Acts, and arrangements relating to the Danube and its mouths are maintained in all such of their provisions as are not abrogated or modified by the preceding stipulations.‡

Ratifications.

ART. IX. The present Treaty shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged at London, within the space of six months, or sooner if possible.§

* No Works have yet been carried out by the Russian Government, and no tolls are therefore levied. (January, 1890.)

† P. 3110.

‡ See Index, Vol. III, pp. 2153, 2154.

§ The ratifications were exchanged on the 21st and 24th August and 25th October, 1883, but a Declaration was signed on the 23rd April, 1883 (No. 600), for the maintenance of the European Commission of the Danube between the 24th April, 1883, and the date of the exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty.

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In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it, and affixed to it the seal of their arms.

Done at London, the 10th day of March, 1883.

(L.S.) GRANVILLE.
E. FITZMAURICE.
(L.S.) MÜNSTER.
(L.S.) KÁROLYI.
(L.S.) CH. TISSOT.
(L.S.) C. BARRÈRE.
(L.S.) NIGRA.
(L.S.) MOHRENHEIM.
(L.S.) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

ANNEX TO TREATY OF 10TH MARCH, 1883.

Regulations for the Navigation, River Police, and Superintendence, applicable to that part of the Danube which is situated between the Iron Gates and Ibraïla.

I.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE NAVIGATION.

Free Navigation between Ibraïla and the Iron Gates.

ART. I.* The navigation shall continue to be entirely free on the whole portion of the Danube, comprised between Ibraïla and the Iron Gates. Merchant vessels of all nations shall freely carry on there, as in the past, the transport of passengers and goods, and towage, under the conditions of perfect equality stipulated for by the XVIth Article of the treaty of Paris (No. 264.)

Tolls and Dues.

ART. II.* No toll shall be levied on the Danube based solely on the fact of the navigation of the river, nor any dues on goods, so long as they remain on board vessels, transports, or rafts.

Port Dues.

ART. III.* The Riverain States have a right to levy in their

* See Article CVIII, p. 3120.

[Navigation of the Danube.]

respective ports, dues in respect of quays, cranes, scales, magazine, and discharging, on account of existing establishments and of such as may be formed in future.

Nevertheless, these dues must be levied without distinction, in accordance with fixed and published rates, irrespective of the places from which the vessels and their cargoes arrive, and only so far as the vessels subject to these dues shall have made use of the said establishments.

It is well understood that the tariffs of these dues are not to form a source of revenue, but that they shall produce only a sum sufficient for the payment of the interest and sinking fund of the capital expended, and for the maintenance of these establishments. As soon as the capital sum has been paid off, the dues shall only be sufficient to cover the expenses of maintenance.

ART. IV. *Construction of Bridges.*

ART. V. *Mills, Fishing Establishments and Irrigation Wheels.*

Customs Limits.

ART. VI*. The Customs limits follow throughout the banks of the river, without ever crossing it. Accordingly, vessels, transports, rafts, &c., so long as they are navigating or at anchor in the bed of the river, without carrying on any commercial operation with the bank, are entirely outside the action of custom-houses.

Customs Dues on Goods Discharged on Banks.

Consequently, the Riverain States can only levy customs dues in respect of goods discharged on the banks, and this prohibition applies also to vessels, transports, or rafts traversing the sections of a river where both banks belong to the same State.

Free Transit of Goods. Custom-House Officers.

ART. VII.* Transit is absolutely free for the goods of all nations, whatever be their origin or destination. When a vessel, transport, or raft traverses a section of the river where both banks belong to the same State, the captains or masters cannot be subjected to other formalities, as regards goods in transit,

* See Article CVIII, p. 3120.

than the affixing of seals or the superintendence of a Custom-house officer, up to the point where the two banks, or one of them, cease to belong to that State. The Custom-house officer, during the time he remains on board, has a right to food, firing, and lighting on the same footing as the crew, but to no other remuneration whatever. The vessel shall be bound to give a free passage to the said Custom-house officer, without food or other expenses, at least as far as the last national port at which it shall touch on its return journey.

Ships' Papers.

ART. VIII.* Sea-going vessels cannot be called upon to produce other documents than their ship's papers. River boats or transports must be furnished with the documents granted by the authority to whom they are subordinated, and necessary to prove the name, nationality, and capacity of the boat or transport and the identity of the captain or master and of the crew.

Coasting and Port to Port Trades.

It is understood that no other modification shall be introduced into the conditions under which the coasting and port to port trades are now carried on without distinction of flag.

Small Craft and Fishing Boats.

Small craft and fishing boats are not obliged to take out the documents mentioned in the present Article; the masters and crews of these boats are bound to provide themselves merely with the documents necessary to prove their identity when they wish to come alongside a bank lying in a foreign country. But it must be understood that this provision does not affect the laws and regulations relative to the exercise of fishing rights in each of the Riverain States.

Towing-Paths.

ART. IX.* No mill or other establishment, no new building nor reservoir, shall be constructed in such a manner as to interrupt the circulation on existing towing-paths, and these paths shall be kept in proper order.

* See Article CVIII, p. 3120.

The same rules shall be applied to towing-paths newly constructed, and to prolongations of those which now exist.

Quarantine. Bills of Health.

ART. X.* The Regulations respecting quarantine shall be framed in such a manner as to conciliate the guarantees in respect of health with the requirements of maritime and river trade.

It is expressly understood that these measures shall be exclusively applicable to vessels and passengers with foul bills of health, and in ports which the contagion has not reached, and that all exceptional and restrictive measures shall be suppressed in respect of intercourse between the ports of the river so soon as an epidemic has become general along its banks.

As a general rule, so long as it is not established that an epidemic prevails, either above the Iron Gates or below Ibraïla, vessels shall be free from all sanitary control while navigating between Ibraïla and the Iron Gates, whether they be ascending or descending the river.

If an epidemic break out in a maritime port, every vessel arriving from the sea, and which has obtained a clean bill of health at Sulina, at Kilia, or at St. George, shall be free of all formalities except the visit of the sanitary officers, and of all quarantine for purposes of observation, in respect of the whole course of its voyage up the river as far as the Iron Gates.

If an epidemic were to break out on the banks of the river, above the Iron Gates or below Ibraïla, a clean bill of health obtained by vessels in the course of navigation, at the first uncontaminated river port at which they shall have touched between the Iron Gates and Ibraïla, shall be sufficient to insure them free access to all the other ports situated on this part of the river.

Finally, if an epidemic were to break out on the banks of this same portion of the river, sea-going vessels, as well as river boats, shall continue to carry on their operations in full liberty, so long as they have not touched at any of the contaminated ports. They shall simply be bound to produce their bill of health in the ports where they cast anchor.

* See Article CVIII, p. 3120.

River Police.

In order to facilitate the maintenance of the river police during an epidemic, the Inspector of the Navigation, the Sub-Inspectors, and the other officers set over the police, shall continue to move about freely for the requirements of their service, on the sole condition that, in case of suspicion, they submit to the measures provided by the Regulations to which the Health Officers are subject.

II.—POLICE.

Chapter I.—*General Provisions.*

ART. XI. *Merchant Steamers. Duty towards Inspectors, &c. Service Boats. Flag.*

ART. XII. The service-boats of the authority intrusted with the execution of the Regulations shall carry a flag identical with that of the European Commission, with the exception of the letters on the blue band of this flag, which letters shall be determined hereafter.

ART. XIII. *Duty of Captains and Crews towards Inspectors, &c.*

ART. XIV. *Measurement of rise and fall of Waters in the River.*

ART. XV. *Jurisdiction in respect of Differences between Captains and Crews.*

ART. XVI. *Stranding of Vessels. Wrecks and Salvage.*

ART. XVII. *Marking of Places, &c., at which Vessels are forbidden to anchor.*

ART. XVIII. *Vessels anchored or moored to the Bank. Dangers to Navigation.*

Chapter 2.—*Rules for Vessels crossing or passing one another. Tugs, &c.*

ARTS. XIX—XXVII.

Chapter 3.—*Rules relative to Tracking from the Banks.*

ARTS. XXVIII—XXX.

Chapter 4.—*Rules for Navigation at Night or in a Fog.*

ARTS. XXXI—XXXIII.

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Chapter 5.—*Rules for Vessels at Anchor.*

ARTS. XXXIV—XXXIX.

Chapter 6.—*Rules in respect of cases of Stranding and Shipwreck.*

ARTS. XL—XLV.

Chapter 7.—*Rules for the Discharge of Ballast.*

ARTS. XLVI—XLVII.

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ART. XLVIII.

Chapter 9.—*On Towage.*

ARTS. XLIX—LII.

Chapter 10.—*On the Police of the Ports.*

ARTS. LIII—LXV.

Chapter 11.—*On Pilotage in the River.*

ARTS. LXVI—LXXI.

Chapter 12.—*Of Offences.*

SECTION (A).—ASSESSMENT OF FINES.

§ 1. *Offences against the General Administration of the Navigation.*

ART. LXXII.

§ 2. *Offences in respect of the River Police.*

ARTS. LXXIII—LXXX.

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§ 4. *Offences committed by Licensed Pilots.*

ART. LXXXVI.

§ 5. *Abusive Language and Assaults.*

ART. LXXXVII.

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SECTION (B).—RULES FOR THE INFLICTION OF FINES.

ARTS. LXXXVIII—XCV.

III.—EXECUTION AND SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE REGULATIONS
BY “MIXED COMMISSION OF THE DANUBE.”

*Constitution of Mixed Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian, Roumanian,
and Servian Commission.*

ART. XCVI. The execution of the present Regulations is placed under the authority of a Commission called the “Mixed Commission of the Danube,” in which Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Servia shall each be represented by one Delegate.

Presidency.

The presidency of this Commission shall devolve on the Delegate of Austria-Hungary.

*Participation of a Member of the European Commission in Work
of Mixed Commission.*

A member of the European Commission of the Danube, appointed for a period of six months, according to the alphabetical order of the States, shall take part in the work of the Mixed Commission, and shall enjoy, during this time, all the rights that appertain to the other members of the Commission.

The States that are already represented on the Mixed Commission shall not be included in the alphabetical roster above alluded to.

In order that the member of the European Commission may be in a position to take part in the deliberations of the Mixed Commission, the latter shall send him a statement of the proposed work one month before the opening of each session.

The European Commission may, when they consider it advisable, require, through the medium of their member, information from the Mixed Commission respecting such of the decisions of that Commission as may affect liberty of navigation.

Powers of Mixed Commission.

ART. XCVII. The powers of the Mixed Commission shall have a duration equal to those of the European Commis-

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sion,* and the constitution and powers of the Mixed Commission shall, in case of need, be modified in any way that may become necessary with the reservation of the coexistence of the two Commissions.

Sittings of Mixed Commission.

ART. XCVIII. The Mixed Commission shall hold two ordinary sessions every year, the dates of which shall be fixed in such a manner as to avoid the Mixed Commission and the European Commission meeting simultaneously.

Decisions by a Majority.

Their decisions shall be arrived at by a majority of votes.

They shall themselves decide upon the interior Regulations regarding the order of their work; as also upon the special instructions to be addressed to their officers in respect of the working of the present Regulations on such points as have not been determined by the Regulations themselves. The Commission shall in their first session proceed to appoint the officers mentioned in Article CI under the Nos. 1, 2, and 4.

Nevertheless, the interior Regulations and the instructions of a general character and of the nature of Regulations (such, for instance, as those treated in Article IX of the Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865 (No. 375, and Appendix to this volume), relative to the navigation at the mouths of the Danube) shall be previously communicated to the European Commission, and shall not be put in force till that Commission is satisfied that they are framed in accordance with the principles which have formed the basis of the present Regulations.

Cost of Administration.

ART. XCIX. The cost of administration shall be at the charge of the States represented in the Mixed Commission. They shall contribute in the following proportions:—

Austria-Hungary, four-tenths; Roumania, four-tenths; Bulgaria and Servia, each one-tenth.

At the second ordinary meeting the Mixed Commission will fix its budget for the following year.

* 24th April, 1904. See Treaty, 10th March, 1883 (No. 599) Art. 2, p. 3107.

The contributions of the different States shall be made half-yearly in advance. Fines levied in respect of offences against the present Regulations shall go into the cash-chest of the Mixed Commission, to be applied to the requirements of the service.

Officers.

ART. C. The officers mentioned below shall perform their duties, each within the limits assigned to him, under the orders of the Mixed Commission, that is to say :—

1. An Inspector.
2. Sub-Inspectors.
3. Harbour-masters, in so far as their duties are connected with the river-way.

4. A Secretary and subordinate officers.

ART. CI. The officers mentioned in the preceding Article shall be chosen from among competent persons. They shall be appointed and paid as follows :—

The Inspector, as well as the Secretary and subordinate officers, shall be appointed and paid by the Mixed Commission.

The Sub-Inspectors and Harbour-masters shall be appointed and paid by the respective Riverain States, who will inform the Mixed Commission of their appointment or of their being replaced.

The above-mentioned officers, with the exception of the Sub-Inspectors and Harbour-masters, may be dismissed by the Mixed Commission.

ART. CII. The Inspector, being in charge of the management, must see that the provisions of the present Regulations are strictly observed, and that they are uniformly applied.

In this respect he is considered as the immediate superior of the Sub-Inspectors and Harbour-masters.

Division of the River between Iron Gates and Ibraïla into Sections.

ART. CIII. The left bank of the Danube between the Iron Gates and Ibraïla shall be divided into four sections for the purposes of inspection.

The first shall extend from the Iron Gates to Beket inclusive.

The second from Beket to Simnitza inclusive.

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The third from Simnitzer to Calarash-Silistria.

The fourth, which includes both banks of the river, from Calarash-Silistria to Ibraïla, exclusive of this last port.

The right bank shall be divided into three sections, of which—

The first shall extend from the Iron Gates to the mouth of the Timok ;

The second, from the Timok to Nicopolis, inclusive ;

The third, from Nicopolis to Silistria, inclusive.

The residence of each of the Sub-Inspectors shall at a future date be fixed by the Riverain States, in concert with the Mixed Commission.

ART. CIV. The Riverain States will give the Mixed Commission and its officers all the assistance they may require in the execution of their task.

Ports or Trading Places.

ART. CV. The ports or trading places which are situated within the limits of each of the sections of the river, and for which the Riverain States shall have appointed Harbour-masters, in conformity with the provisions of the present Regulations, shall not be comprised within the jurisdiction of the Sub-Inspectors of the section. These ports or trading places shall be placed under the superintendence of the Harbour-masters, who, in so far as their action on the river way is concerned, are subordinate to the Inspector, and must obey his instructions.

For the purposes of the present Regulations, the word "port" shall be held to apply to all that part of the river which is comprised between two straight lines drawn at right angles to the bank at the upper and lower boundaries of the said ports or trading places and carried out to the mid-channel.

If the opposite bank belongs to the same State, the port shall be held to comprise also that part of the river situated beyond the mid-channel, between two lines carried across to the said bank, always provided that on the said bank there is not a port or trading place for which a separate Harbour-master has been appointed.

Vessels traversing the waters of a port in the course of navigation without stopping at this port, are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Harbour-masters ; the Inspector and the Sub-

Inspectors are alone competent to take action in respect of such vessels.

Judicial Police.

ART. CVI. The special prerogatives of the judicial police of the river shall be exercised by the Sub-Inspectors and the Harbour-masters, each within the district assigned to him for superintendence, and appeals shall lie to the Mixed Commission, whose decisions are final.

If, in the exercise of their duties, Sub-Inspectors become aware of offences committed beyond the limits of their district, they shall take note of these offences and report them to the competent Sub-Inspector.

Meetings to be held at Giurgevo.

ART. CVII. The Mixed Commission shall sit at Giurgevo.

Modification of Articles.

ART. CVIII. Articles I, II, III, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X, as well as Articles XCVI to CVIII inclusive, can only be modified by agreement between the Powers interested. The other Articles cannot be modified by the Mixed Commission without the consent of the European Commission of the Danube.

PROTOCOL. *Exchange of Ratifications. Great Britain and Germany, &c.* London, 21st August, 1883.*

(Translation.)

THE Signatory Powers of the Treaty signed at London the 10th March, 1883, relative to the navigation of the Danube (No. 599), having agreed that the exchange of the ratifications of the said Treaty should be effected at London by means of a single instrument by each Power, the Undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, met at the Foreign Office to deposit the said ratifications.

* Similar Protocols were signed on the same day with the Representatives of Austria, France, and Italy. For Protocols signed on the exchange of Russian and Turkish Ratifications, see pp. 3121, 3122.

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The said ratifications were produced by the Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., and of His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, &c.

And having been examined and found in good and due form and correct, the deposition of these instruments was duly recorded.

In faith whereof the Undersigned have signed the present Protocol, and have affixed thereto the Seal of their Arms.

Done at London, the 21st August, 1883.

(L.S.) GRANVILLE.

EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

(L.S.) L. PLESSÉN.

PROTOCOL. *Exchange of Ratifications. Great Britain and Russia. Russian Reservation ;—Relations between Bulgaria and Turkey. London, 24th August, 1883.**

(Translation.)

THE Signatory Powers of the Treaty signed at London the 10th March, 1883 (No. 599), relative to the navigation of the Danube, having agreed that the exchange of the ratifications of the said Treaty should be effected at London by means of single instrument by each Power, the Undersigned, duly authorised to that effect, met at the Foreign Office to deposit the said ratifications.

The said ratifications were produced by the Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., and of His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, &c.

And having been examined and found in due form and correct, the deposition of these instruments was duly recorded.

Before proceeding to the exchange of ratifications, the Representative of His Majesty, the Emperor of All the Russias, made the following declaration :—

* See also Protocol of 25th October, 1883, containing Ottoman Reservations respecting the Nomination of the Bulgarian Delegate to the Mixed Commission, p. 3122.

"Considering that the question treated by the Conference at its meeting of the 7th March (No. 598), concerning the relations between the Principality of Bulgaria and the Suzerain Power, does not come within the programme of the three points which alone were brought before that Assembly, and of which alone it was called upon to take cognizance, the Imperial Government of Russia cannot recognise as obligatory the conclusions which the Conference has thought itself enabled to draw up in this respect beyond the limits of its legal competence; and the Russian Government continues, in consequence, to regard the question as an open one, reserving explicitly to itself full and entire liberty of opinion upon the principle involved therein."

The Representative of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, President of the Conference, whilst stating that he had nothing to add upon this subject to the observations made by him at the meeting of the 7th March, took note of the Reserve expressed by the Representative of Russia, which is inserted in the present Protocol, engaging to bring it to the knowledge of the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty.

In faith whereof the Undersigned have signed the present Protocol, and have affixed thereto the Seal of their Arms.

Done at London, the 24th August, 1883.

(L.S.) GRANVILLE.

EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

(L.S.) MOHRENHEIM.

PROTOCOL. *Exchange of Ratifications. Great Britain and Turkey. Turkish Reservation;—Nomination of Bulgarian Delegate to Mixed Commission. London, 25th October, 1883.**

(Translation.)

THE Signatory Powers of the Treaty signed at London the 10th March, 1883 (No. 599), relative to the navigation of the Danube, having agreed that the exchange of the ratifications of the said Treaty should be effected at London by means of

* See Protocol of 24th August, 1883, containing Russian Reservations respecting the Relations between the Principality of Bulgaria and the Suzerain Power, p. 3121.

[Navigation of the Danube.]

a single instrument by each Power, the Undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, met at the Foreign Office to deposit the said ratifications.

The said ratifications were produced by the Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., and of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, &c.

And having been examined and found in good and due form and correct, the deposition of these instruments was duly recorded.

Before proceeding to the exchange of the ratifications, the Representative of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans made the following declaration:—

“Considering that the Conference lately assembled at London was competent to pronounce upon the Reserves of the Sublime Porte concerning the nomination of the Bulgarian Delegate to the Mixed Commission, from the fact that that question, inseparable from the Regulations drawn up at Galatz, and which instituted the said Commission, came within the programme of the three points of which the Commission was called upon to take cognizance, and of which the second had for its object the confirmation of the aforesaid Regulations; considering, consequently, that the opinion of the Imperial Government of Russia, expressed in the Declaration inserted in the Protocol of the 24th August last,* recording the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty of the 10th March between Great Britain and Russia, cannot in anywise invalidate the competence of the Conference in this respect, the Sublime Porte declares that it understands that the ratification of the said Treaty by the High Contracting Parties implies that of the right, recognised as appertaining to the Sublime Porte by the Conference at its meeting of the 7th March (No. 598), of approving the nomination of the Bulgarian Delegate to the Mixed Commission, a right the insertion of which in the Protocol of that meeting has, according to the unanimous declaration of the Conference, the same efficacy as if it formed part of the Treaty itself; and that thenceforward the Sublime Porte maintains, as a consequence of the sanction given to that Treaty by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, that the Bulgarian Delegate, whose nomination will be approved by the Sublime Porte, shall represent the

* P. 3121.

[Navigation of the Danube.]

Ottoman Empire upon the Mixed Commission, and shall duly keep the Imperial Government informed of the acts and deliberations of that Commission, his vote being decisive only in so far as it is in conformity with the instructions, and meets with the approbation of the Sublime Porte."

The Representative of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, President of the Conference, whilst stating that he had nothing to add upon this subject to the observations made by him at the meeting of the 7th March (No. 598), took note of the Reserve expressed by the Representative of His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, which is inserted in the present Protocol; engaging to bring it to the knowledge of the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty.

In faith whereof the Undersigned have signed the present Protocol, and have affixed thereto the Seal of their Arms.

Done at London, the 25th October, 1883.

(L.S.) GRANVILLE.

EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

(L.S.) MUSURUS.

No. 600.—*DECLARATION of the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey,* for the Maintenance of the European Commission of the Danube, between the 24th April, 1883, and the date of the exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaty of 10th March, 1883. London, 23rd April, 1883.*

(Translation.)

THE Powers who were Parties to the Treaties of the 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), and of the 10th March, 1883 (No. 599), being desirous of removing all doubts with regard to the maintenance of the European Commission of the Danube between the 24th April, 1883,† and the date of the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty of the 10th March, 1883 (No. 599);

The Plenipotentiaries of Germany, Austria-Hungary, the French Republic, Great Britain and Ireland, Italy, Russia, and Turkey,‡ have assembled this day in Conference at the Foreign Office in London, and have determined upon the following Declaration:—

“The Powers, who were Parties to the Treaty of 13th July 1878 (No. 530), having agreed, under the terms of the 54th Article of the said Treaty, on the prolongation of the powers of the European Commission of the Danube, and on the modifications which it is necessary to introduce therein, have come to an understanding that the European Commission of the Danube is maintained in its functions and in the exercise of all its powers, as they existed at the date of the Treaty of the 10th March, 1883 (No. 599), up to the date of the exchange of the ratifications of this last named Treaty.”

In faith whereof the said Plenipotentiaries have signed the

* Rendered nugatory by the exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaty of 10th March, 1883 (No. 599).

† The date fixed by Art. IV of the Treaty of 13th March, 1871 (No. 439).

‡ The Turkish Plenipotentiary did not sign this Declaration.

present Declaration, and have affixed thereto the Seal of their Arms.

Done at London, the 23rd April, 1883.

(L.S.) MÜNSTER.
(L.S.) KÁROLYI.
(L.S.) TISSOT.
(L.S.) GRANVILLE.
(L.S.) NIGRA.
(L.S.) MOHRENHEIM.

[The Ratifications were exchanged between Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, and Italy, on the 21st August, 1883 (page 3120); between Great Britain, &c., and Russia, on the 24th August, 1883 (page 3121); and between Great Britain, &c., and Turkey, on the 25th October, 1883 (page 3122).]

No. 601.—RAILWAY CONVENTION *between Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Serbia, and Bulgaria, in execution of Articles X, XXI, and XXXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Signed at Vienna, 9th May, 1883.*

ART.

TABLE.

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(Translation.)

THE Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., and Apostolic King of Hungary, the Government of His Majesty the King of Serbia, and the Government of His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, actuated by a desire to favour and regulate the traffic between their territories by completing the railway junctions contemplated by Articles X, XXI, and XXXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) have resolved to conclude a Convention, and, with this view, have named as their Plenipotentiaries respectively:—[Here follow the names of the Plenipotentiaries.]

Lines to be Constructed.

ART. I. In pursuance of the stipulations laid down in Articles X, XXI, and XXXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin

[Railways.]

(No. 530), the Contracting Parties undertake to construct and unite, and open for traffic simultaneously on the 15th October, 1886, the lines set forth in Articles II, III, IV, and V, hereinafter recited, in conformity with the provisions of the present Convention.

Austrian Undertaking.

ART. II. The Imperial and Royal Government of Austria-Hungary undertakes to construct and unite and open for traffic simultaneously on the above-mentioned date, the 15th October, 1886, a junction from Buda-Pesth, by Semlin, to the Servo-Hungarian frontier at Belgrade.

Turkish Undertaking.

ART. III. The Imperial Ottoman Government undertakes to construct and unite and open for traffic simultaneously on the above-mentioned date, the 15th October, 1886 :

§1. The connection of the line already existing from Constantinople-Bellova with the line to be made from Nisch, by Sophia, to the Turco-Bulgarian frontier.

§2. A branch line which shall break off near Pristina, or from such other point of the already existing Salonica-Mitrovitz line as shall be found suitable by the Imperial Ottoman authorities, and which shall lead, according to a route judged most suitable by common consent, to the Turco-Servian frontier so as to join the Servian line shown in §3 of Article IV following.

Servian Undertaking.

ART. IV. The Imperial and Royal Servian Government undertakes to construct and unite and open for traffic simultaneously on the above-mentioned date, the 15th October, 1886 :

§1. The line from Belgrade to Nisch, joining the Hungarian line near Belgrade.

§2. A connecting line from Nisch to the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, viâ Pirot, to Bellova, in the direction of Constantinople.

§3. A connecting line from Nisch by Vranja to a point on the Servo-Turkish frontier, to be settled by common consent, so as to effect a junction with the Turkish line shown in Section 2 of Article III.

Bulgarian Undertaking.

ART. V. The Government of the Bulgarian Principality undertakes to construct and unite and open for traffic simultaneously on the above-mentioned date, the 15th October, 1886, a railway connecting the line to be constructed by Servia from Nisch, viâ Pirot, to the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, and which shall lead from the aforesaid frontier by Tzaribrod and Sophia to the Turco-Bulgarian frontier, so as to join the Constantinople-Bellova line which shall be brought up to this point.

ART. VI. *Technical Studies. Preparatory Works. Concessions on Tenders.*

ART. VII. *Customs Control. Passengers and Goods Traffic. Frontier and Transit Stations.*

ART. VIII. *Uniformity of Systems.*

ART. IX. *Transport Rates. Public Taxes. Treatment of Goods Imported.*

ART. X. *Tariff for Conveyance of Goods, &c.*

ART. XI. *Direct Communication between Principal Stations. Charges.*

ART. XII. *Indirect Communications.*

ART. XIII. *Guarantee of Service against all Obstruction or Hindrance.*

ART. XIV. *Sanitary Regulations.*

ART. XV. *Arrangements for Working and Traffic.*

ART. XVI. *Customs Formalities. Facilities for Traffic.*

ART. XVII. *Posts and Telegraphs.*

ART. XVIII. *Frontier Police.*

ART. XIX. *Local Control.*

Revision of Convention.

ART. XX. In the case where one of the Contracting Parties, after the expiration of the tenth year reckoning from the day of the exchange of ratifications,* should demand a revision of the present Convention, the Delegates of the Contracting Parties shall meet for this purpose at Vienna, at the invitation of the Imperial and Royal Government.

It is understood that the Contracting Parties reserve the right to introduce at any time, by common consent, into this

* Ratifications exchanged 23rd October, 1883.

[Railways.]

Convention, any modification of which experience may demonstrate the utility.

ART. XXI. The present Convention shall, if necessary, be submitted to the respective legislative bodies, and shall come into force as soon as possible after the exchange of ratifications, which shall take place at Vienna by the 1st October, 1883, at latest.

In virtue of which the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention, and have affixed thereto their Arms and Seals.

Done at Vienna, in quadruplicate, the 9th May, 1883.

[Here follow the signatures.]

[Conventions were concluded between Turkey and Serbia, on the 6th January, 1885, and 4th June, 1887, with reference to the Lines between Uskub and Vranja; and a Convention was also concluded between the Servian and Bulgarian Governments, on the $\frac{14}{6}$ th September, 1887, to regulate the conditions under which the Railway Lines of Serbia and Bulgaria should be united between Pirot and Tzaribrod, and how the frontier stations should be worked.]

No. 602.—*CONVENTION between Russia and Turkey relative to the Payment of the Expenses attending the Occupation of Bulgaria by Russia. St. Petersburg, 1st 6th 3rd July, 1883.*

(Translation.)

THE Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia and the Government of His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, being desirous of regulating the mode of payment to Russia of the expenses of the occupation of the Principality by the Imperial Russian troops, in conformity with the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), have named for their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say: His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, his Minister for Foreign Affairs and Secretary of State, Nicholas Giers; and His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, the acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Bulgaria, Kyriak A. Zankow, who, after having exchanged their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

ART. I. The Princely Government of Bulgaria recognizes as being due to the Imperial Russian Government for expenses during the occupation by the Imperial Russian Troops, in conformity with the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), the sum of 10,618,250 paper roubles, 43 kopecs.

ART. II. The Princely Government engages to pay this debt in the following manner:—

On the 1st 13th September, 400,000 roubles. In the interval of 12 years, from 1884 to 1895, annually, at the rate of 800,000 roubles, which shall be paid at two periods, namely, on the 1st 13th January and on the 1st 13th July of each year, on each occasion at the rate of 400,000 roubles. On the 1st 13th January, 1896, 400,000 roubles, and on the 1st 13th July of the same year, the sum then remaining, viz., 218,250 roubles and 43 kopecs.

ART. III. The payments mentioned in Article II shall be made by the Princely Government to the National Bank of Sophia, in the name and to the order of the Imperial Government, in "lews" (or francs) at the rate of exchange at the date of payment.

28 July, 1883.]

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

[No. 602

[Expenses. Russian Occupation of Bulgaria.]

ART. IV. The Imperial Government foregoes the demand for the payment of any interest whatever upon the amount of the debt in question, either for the time which elapsed from the commencement of the occupation to the date of the signature of the present Arrangement, or from the date of its signature until the payment of the whole debt shall be completed.

ART V. The present Arrangement shall be ratified, and the Ratifications shall be exchanged at St. Petersburg within a period of six weeks, or sooner if possible.

In faith of which, the Plenipotentiaries of the two Parties have signed the present Act in duplicate, and have affixed thereto the Seal of their Arms.

Done at St. Petersburg, the $\frac{1}{2}$ nd July, 1883.

(L.S.) K. A. ZANKOW.

(L.S.) GIERA.

No. 603.—*AGREEMENT between Turkey and Montenegro, for the demarcation of the Frontier between Gradiste and Mount Planinitza. Constantinople, 29th August—1st September, 1883.*

(Translation).

Aarifi Pasha to M. de Radonich.

Constantinople, 29th August, 1883.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, has the honour to inform His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Highness the Prince of Montenegro, that the Imperial Government has examined the tracing respecting the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, which His Excellency communicated to it in connection with his note of the 27th instant.

The details of this tracing are as follows:—

On the north-east of Lake Scutari from point XIX of the British Commissioners' map, the frontier will follow, as far as Gradiste, the line which has been defined in Protocol No. 3 of Cetinje, of the 10th January, 1883 (No. 597).*

From Gradiste the frontier will run in a straight line to the summit of Suka-i-Gruda, indicated on the British Commissioners' map; thence it will follow the southern frontier of Kucka-Kraïna established by the International Commission, and marked in green on the before-mentioned map; and after passing Suka Muami, Kunkuća, Suka Milõe, Kuni Kostić, Maja Nerzit, Vile, Skala Rikavač, and Cafa Braks, will arrive at Mount Planinića, whence it will attain, by the summit of Krsi Djegun, that of the Stotića, the extreme point of the maps of the International Commission. From that point, taking for a basis the line laid in the Memorandum of Constantinople of 12th April, 1880 (No. 563), the frontier will run towards Mokra Planina in such a manner as to leave to Turkey those villages of which the majority of inhabitants is Mussulman, and to Montenegro those villages, Vélika included, of which the majority of inhabitants is Christian. From Mokra Planina, which remains to Turkey as far as Moikoratz, the frontier will follow the tracing of the Treaty of Berlin. (See No. 605).

In conformity with the decision arrived at with regard to

* See Map facing p. 3140.

the above by the Council of Ministers and sanctioned by an *Irâdé* of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, the Undersigned has the honour to notify to His Excellency that the Imperial Government, while adhering to the tracing in question, believes that it should at the same time give expression to the following considerations :—

The tracing alluded to lays down that from Mokra Planina, which remains to Turkey, as far as Moïkoratz, the frontier will follow the tracing of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

Now, according to that Treaty, the line setting out from Mokra, runs towards the heights of the village of Morgos, and thence rejoins the old frontier upon the Lim, following the heights, and leaving to Montenegro the villages of Sadrika and Zranitza.

It would follow then, that the portion of the line which extends from Mokra Planina as far as the point of the old frontier upon the Lim, near Secular, would exceed even the Corti line (No. 563), would abandon, according to the map, the villages of Bogh and Morgos to Montenegro, and would leave to the Principality on that side a territory of almost 40 square kilomètres in extent, in excess of the Corti line, which would not at all agree with the verbal propositions which His Highness the Prince has been pleased to make. Besides, the above-mentioned note of His Excellency M. Radonich of the 27th instant, itself indicates the Corti line as the starting-point of the demarcation beyond Gradiste.

Consequently, the Berlin line being naturally disposed of, the Imperial Government is quite ready to accept the said tracing of His Excellency M. Radonich, which in part concerns the Corti line (No. 563), on the following conditions, which are in conformity with the verbal propositions of His Highness the Prince :—

To leave to Turkey the dominating points and the Mussulman villages situated on both sides of the River Lim ;

To keep open the Ipek road, as well as the one leading from Plava by the valley of the Lim to Berana ;

To give to Turkey the benefit of the difference existing between the two Austrian maps which show the Corti line ;

Finally, to assure to private individuals, Ali Pasha of Gusinje being of the number, the free enjoyment of their properties and the revenues accruing therefrom.

With regard to the frontier-line bordering on Novi-Bazar and the Herzegovina, it will naturally be fixed according to the indications of the Treaty of Berlin.

Marshal Mustapha Assim Pasha, Brigadier-General Takir Pasha, and Colonel Bedri Bey, Ottoman Commissioners, will be charged, in concert with the Montenegrin Commissioners, to proceed to the work of demarcation by the application, on the spot, of the tracing of the frontiers as indicated in the mode of solution which forms the subject of this note.

The undersigned, &c.

AARIFI.

M. de Radonich to Aarifi Pasha.

(Translation).

1st September, 1883.

The Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Highness the Prince of Montenegro, has had the honour to receive the note of the 29th of August, in which His Highness the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has been good enough to inform him of the decision arrived at by the Imperial Government, and sanctioned by an Imperial Iradé, with regard to the tracing of the Turco-Montenegrin frontiers.

His Highness Prince Nicholas has learnt with great satisfaction that the Sublime Porte had, on the four conditions enumerated in the above-mentioned note, adhered to the tracing of the frontier-line which the undersigned had the honour to present for the acceptance of the Imperial Government.

However, it is to be remarked that these conditions, in so far as they relate to the tracing of the frontier-line in the valley of the Lim, do not agree entirely with the verbal propositions of His Highness Prince Nicholas and the tracing proposed by the Prince's Government.

A disagreement between the Commissioners of the two States in the application on the spot of this tracing becomes then inevitable, and would perhaps be sufficient to render their mission unsuccessful. In the sincere desire to see the work of demarcation carried to a satisfactory termination, and to clear up this misunderstanding, an exchange of ideas on the subject has taken place between His Highness Prince Nicholas and

Their Excellencies Nusret Pasha and Munir Bey, and it has been agreed that the understanding which has resulted therefrom, and the terms of which are to be found in a duplicate *procès-verbal*, dated the ^{19th}/_{31st} of August, a copy of which is annexed, will serve as the basis for the delimitation of the valley of the Lim exclusively.

An agreement having thus been happily established over the whole length of the tracing of the frontier-line which remains to be fixed, the Prince's Government hastens to designate on its part the Commissioners who will be charged, in concert with their Ottoman colleagues, to proceed to the work of delimitation by the application, on the spot, of the tracing of the frontiers on the bases just settled between the two Governments.

His Highness Prince Nicholas profits by this occasion to express once more to the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan his lively thanks for its conciliatory spirit in the negotiations that have led to the solution of a question which has been, unfortunately, the cause of more than one disagreement between the two neighbouring States.

The undersigned, &c.

RADONICH.

P.S. It is well understood that the four conditions laid down in His Highness Aarifi Pasha's note of the 29th of August, will hold good in so far as they are not modified by that which precedes.

R.

Procès-Verbal as to Christian Villages on the Montenegrin Frontier.

(Translation).

31st August, 1883.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding between the Commissioners with regard to the tracing of the frontier-line in the valley of the Lim, it has been agreed between His Highness Prince Nicholas and Their Excellencies Nusret Pasha and Munir Bey, that the Christian villages in the valley of the Lim, actually administered and occupied by the Principality, will remain to Montenegro. All those which are occupied, and which, according to the Treaties belong to Montenegro, His Highness gives

No. 603] TURKEY AND MONTENEGRO. [29 Aug.-1 Sep., 1883.

[Montenegrin Boundary—Gradiste to Planinitza.]

up to Turkey, whether they be Christian or not. The above-mentioned villages will be delimited according to their parochial boundaries.

Exception will be made in those places where the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**) is explicit, as, for instance, between Sitko, Yezero, and Moikoratz.*

**NUSRET.
RADONICH.**

August 31st, 1883.

[See subsequent Arrangements of 21st December, 1884 (**No. 605**); and July, 1887 (**No. 622**)].

* The names of these places were not specially mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin. (See page 2781.)

No. 604.—*CUSTOMS AGREEMENT between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. Sofia, 30th September, 1884.*

ON the 30th September, 1884, a Decree was issued by the Prince of Bulgaria, confirming an Agreement which had been entered into between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia for the admission, free of duty, of local products from one country to the other. This Agreement provided that all local products, with the exception of tobacco, salt, wine, and spirituous liquors, for which special provision was made, should be reciprocally admitted free of duty, the two Governments binding themselves to take measures to prevent the issuing of false certificates and the introduction of foreign products as local ones. This Agreement was to come into force on the $\frac{1^{\text{st}}}{13^{\text{th}}}$ October, 1884.*

* See also Arrangement agreed to by the Plenipotentiaries of the Treaty Powers on the 5th April, 1886 (No. 611), for entrusting the Governor-Generalship of Eastern Roumelia to the Prince of Bulgaria, and for placing the Mussulman Villages of Kirdjali, and those in the Rhodope District, under the administration of the Porte.

No. 605.—*CONVENTION between Turkey and Montenegro, for the demarcation of the Frontier, between Planinitza and Secular, on the side of Gusinje-Plava. Signed at Constantinople, 21st December, 1884.*

(Translation.)

It has been settled and agreed between M. G. de Voukovitch, Chargé d'Affaires of Montenegro, Special Commissioner of His Highness the Prince for the final settlement of the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier between Planinitza and Secular, on one part, and the Marshals Dervich Pacha and Nouzret Pacha, Aides-de-Camp General, and the General of Division, Riza Pacha, Aide-de-Camp to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, Special Commissioners, on the other part, as follows:—The frontier line on the side of Gusinje-Plava will start from Mount Planinitza, the extreme point of the line already determined on, on the side of Scutari (**No. 603**), to proceed to Mount Dredji-Oussor, and from thence to end at Mount Ichova, passing by Borova-Glava and Ilina-Ilava. From Ichova it will proceed towards the summit of Mount Tomor-Kamen, will pass by Silieva-Glava and Baliasta-Glava, and follow on in a direct line to the summit of Mount Golech. From this latter point the frontier line will follow the former common boundary (*l'ancienne limite commune*) between the villages of Morina and Peptchi, as far as the Lim, leaving the former to Montenegro, and the latter to Turkey.

From the Lim, the frontier line will follow the old communal boundary between Machinitza and Kjanitza, and following this boundary will rejoin the Lim, leaving Kjanitza to Turkey. From the Lim it will follow along the right bank as far as the starting-point of the old communal boundary between Velika and Novchitch. From thence, leaving Velika to Montenegro, it will follow the old communal boundary between that village and the other Mussulman villages as far as the Mokra de Velika. All this part of the line shall be traced after the points and boundaries enumerated above shall have been ascertained on the ground.

From Mokra de Velika the frontier line, after having left Mokra Planina entirely to Turkey, shall follow the line laid

down of the Memorandum of the 12th April, 1880, as far as the Lim (Corti line) (No. 563).*

This bend of the line shall be technically determined by the Commission of Delimitation.† The three points mentioned in the note of His Highness Aarifi Pacha, dated 29th August, 1883 (No. 603), are maintained and confirmed by the present Convention.

Done and signed, in three copies, at Constantinople, the 9th (21st) December, 1884.

G. DE VOUKOVITCH.

DERVICH,
NOUZRET.
RIZA.

* See Map, facing this page.

† See Agreement of July, 1887 (No. 622).

No. 606.—*DECLARATION OF WAR by Serbia against Bulgaria. Nisch, 14th November, 1885.*

(Translation.)

THE King hereby declares that, in consulting the Skuptchina, he has taken all the necessary measures to show clearly that Serbia cannot remain a disinterested spectator of the change which has taken place amongst the people of the Balkans, and, above all, cannot allow it when it is to the advantage of a State which has employed all its liberty to prove itself a bad neighbour towards Serbia, and to be unwilling to respect either the rights, or even the territory, of Serbia.

The unjustifiable Customs regulations which Bulgaria has introduced against Serbia, and which have put a stop to all commercial intercourse between the two countries, have had, on the part of Bulgaria, for their exclusive object to give evidence of its unfriendly disposition towards Serbia, dating from the commencement of Bulgaria's existence.

The forcible and unlawful seizure of the district of Bregovo,* and the protection granted to the refugees in their intrigues against the internal order of the kingdom, I have pardoned, as I wished to give a proof of the patience which becomes a State which has bought its liberty with its own blood, which—assisted by the sympathy of Europe—has made progress, and which, at each step of its development, has preserved and respected the rights of others as if they had been its own.

But the ill-treatment of our subjects in Bulgaria, the closing of our frontiers, the gathering of undisciplined masses on our frontiers, their acts of aggression against our border population, and even against our Army, to which is entrusted the defence of the Servian territory, all constitute a provocation to which I cannot remain indifferent, having regard to the great interests of the country, to the dignity of the people, and to the honour of the Servian arms. For these reasons, I have accepted the state of an open rupture which the Bulgarian Government has commenced,

* See Protocol between Bulgaria and Serbia of 25th October, 1886 (No. 619); Act of 30th March, 1887 (No. 620); and Act of ^{19th}/_{31st} December, 1888 (No. 625).

14 Nov., 1885.]

SERVIA.

[No. 606

[War with Bulgaria.]

and I have therefore ordered my faithful and heroic Army to cross the Bulgarian frontier.

The just cause of Serbia is to-day intrusted to the decision of arms, to the heroism of the Army, and to the mighty protection of God.

In addressing this Proclamation to my dear people, I rely with confidence, in this grave moment, on the love of the people towards their country, and on their devotion to the holy Servian cause.

Nisch, November 2 (14), 1885.

MILAN.

[A Proclamation to the above effect was also addressed by the King of Serbia to the Servian people on the same day. An Armistice was signed between Bulgaria and Serbia on the 28th November, 1885, subject to certain conditions which were settled by an International Military Commission at Pirot, on the 21st December, 1885 (**No. 609**), and a Treaty of Peace was signed on the 3rd March, 1886 (**No. 610**).]

No. 607.—*DECLARATION of War by Bulgaria against Servia, 14 November, 1885.*

PROCLAMATION.

WE, Alexander I, by the Grace of God and the national will, Prince of Bulgaria.—The Government of our neighbours the Servians, guided by private and political purposes, desiring to annul the sacred right of the union of the Bulgarian nation, to-day, without any legal or justifiable cause, proclaimed war against our State, and commanded their Army to enter our territory (**No. 606**). With great sorrow we receive this sad news, because we never believed that brethren of one blood and religion could begin a fratricidal war, and in the troublous times through which the small States of the Balkan Peninsula are passing could so inhumanly and inconsiderately behave towards neighbours who, without causing damage to any one, are working and struggling for a noble, justifiable, and praiseworthy cause. Leaving to the Servians and their Government the sole responsibility for the fratricidal war between two brother nations, and the bad consequences which must befall both countries, we inform our beloved nation that we accept the war proclaimed by Servia, and have given orders to our brave and heroic Armies to commence action against her and manfully defend the territory, honour, and liberty of the Bulgarian nation. Our cause is a sacred one, and we hope that God will take us under his protection, and give us the necessary help that we may triumph and conquer our enemies. Assured that our beloved nation will hasten to support the arduous but sacred task of the defence of our land against the invasion of the enemy, and that every Bulgarian able to bear arms will come under our banner and fight for his country and liberty, we invoke the Almighty to preserve and defend Bulgaria, and to help us in the trying and difficult times through which our country is passing.

May Almighty God help us!

ALEXANDER.

November 14, 1885.

[An Armistice was concluded between Bulgaria and Servia on the 28th November, 1885, subject to certain conditions, which were settled by an International Military Commission on the 21st December, 1885 (No. 609), and a Treaty of Peace was signed on the 3rd March, 1886 (No. 610).]

RUSTCHUK AND VARNA RAILWAY.

[Differences arose between the Government of Bulgaria and the Rustchuk and Varna Railway Company, as to the amount of the obligation laid on Bulgaria by Art. X of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530, [p. 2772), which said, "Bulgaria takes the place of the Imperial Ottoman Government in its undertakings and obligations towards the Rustchuk and Varna Railway Company, dating from the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty." A proposal was made by the British Government, in 1882, to refer the dispute to the arbitration of the Ambassador at Constantinople, but it led to no result. (See "State Papers," vol. 75, p. 1059.) Ultimately the Bulgarian Government purchased the line, an Agreement to that effect having been signed on the 4th December, 1885.]

No. 608.—*PROTOCOLS of Conferences between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for regulating the state of Affairs in Eastern Roumelia, in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). Constantinople, 5th–25th November, 1885.**

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.†

PROTOCOL.

No. 1. Presidency of Conference conferred on Saïd Pasha. Naoum Effendi and M. Hanotaux to be Secretaries, and Yousseuf Bey Assistant Secretary. Deliberations to be kept secret. Arrangements agreed upon as to drawing up of Protocols.

Constantinople, 5th November, 1885.

No. 2. Saïd Pasha states the bases of deliberations to be the examination of the state of affairs in *Eastern Roumelia*, and an agreement upon a solution, in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), as to the rights of the Sultan, and the re-establishment of the *status quo ante*. The Plenipotentiaries of the Powers represented in the Conference express their adhesion to the declaration of Saïd Pasha, the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and France explaining that they must ask for fresh instructions from their respective Governments in the event of definite proposals being made outside the terms of the Circular of Invitation. Ottoman Plenipotentiaries called upon to shape their proposals for the re-establishment of order.

Constantinople, 7th November, 1885.

No. 3. President states that, in seeking a solution, the Ottoman Government has had three considerations in view, viz. :—(1) Ottoman Government to make no sacrifices, material or territorial; (2) *Balkan* frontiers to be fortified in accordance with

The Commissioners Plenipotentiaries were—

For Great Britain :	Sir William White.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Baron Calice.
„ France :	{ Marquis de Noailles.
	{ M. Hanotaux (at 8th sitting).
„ Germany :	M. de Radowitz.
„ Italy :	{ Count Corti.
	{ Baron Galvagna (at 8th sitting).
„ Russia :	M. de Nélidow.
„ Turkey :	Saïd Pasha.
	Server Pasha.

† For full text of these Protocols, with an English Translation, see Parliamentary Papers, Turkey, Nos. 1 and 2 (1889).

[Eastern Roumelia.]

PROTOCOL.

Treaty of *Berlin**; (3) plan of solution not to furnish contiguous States with a pretext for aggression on *Ottoman* territory. He proposes (1) to show indulgence to Prince Alexander, on condition that he retires with his troops from *Eastern Roumelia*; (2) to nominate a Vali for *Eastern Roumelia*, according to established custom; (3) to consider the best means for persuading Prince Alexander to return to the observance of his duties. *Russian* Plenipotentiary asks for further explanations, which are given by the President. *British* Plenipotentiary denies that States which have not signed the Treaty of *Berlin* have anything to do with arrangements made by the Great Powers. Plenipotentiaries of *Austria* and *Italy* consider the President's statement not sufficiently practical. *French* Plenipotentiary thinks that, before considering the means of persuading Prince Alexander to withdraw, it would be desirable to know how the *de facto* state of affairs will be replaced. The Plenipotentiaries press for more definite proposals. *British* Plenipotentiary reads a declaration to the effect that a serious inquiry into the condition of *Eastern Roumelia* should precede all other work of the Conference. Conference accept *Russian* proposal that aspirations of other *Balkan States* should not be brought under discussion.

Constantinople, 9th November, 1885.

- No. 4. Saïd Pasha submits fresh proposals as follows:—(1) Spécial Delegate to be sent to Prince Alexander with a written invitation from the Porte, calling upon him to withdraw from *Eastern Roumelia*; (2) Delegate to summon the authorities and population of the province to return to their obedience; (3) Extraordinary Commissioner to be sent to *Eastern Roumelia* with the powers of a Governor-General, until the appointment of a Vali; (4) Commissioner to take in hand administration as soon as Prince Alexander has withdrawn; (5) As soon as populations have returned to their obedience a Mixed Commission to be instituted to examine into working of Organic Statute (No. 546). The Plenipotentiaries accept the proposals as a basis for the measures to be arranged, with the exception of those of *France* and *Great Britain*, who state their intention of submitting them to their respective Governments. *British* Plenipotentiary brings before the Conference the wish of his Government that a serious inquiry into the condition of the Province should be forthwith instituted: *Austrian* Plenipotentiary agrees with this, but cannot admit that the inquiry should take precedence of the measures of pacification. Plenipotentiaries of *Russia*, *Germany*, *Italy*, and *Turkey* share in the views of their *Austrian* colleague. *British* Plenipotentiary states that he will inform his

* See Act, 5th April, 1886 (No. 611).

[Eastern Roumelia.]

PROTOCOL.

Government of the situation. *French* Plenipotentiary attempts to bring about a compromise between the *English* and *Ottoman* proposals, but without result.

Constantinople, 12th November, 1885.

- No. 5. M. Jaroszynski placed at disposal of Conference as Assistant Secretary by Marquis de Noailles. *British* Plenipotentiary declares he can take no part in the discussion until he has received definitive instructions, but states that he will forward the result of the discussion to his Government. Discussion respecting the character of the mission of the Special Delegate to be sent to *Eastern Roumelia*. *French* proposal that Sultan should send his own invitation to Prince Alexander, which should be supported by the Great Powers. Majority of Plenipotentiaries agree that identic and simultaneous advice should be given to the Prince and the populations on behalf of the Great Powers, and that the decision adopted should be notified through the Agents of the Powers in *Bulgaria* and *Eastern Roumelia*. Discussion as to the terms of the communication of the Powers. Enumeration of points which have found favour in the course of discussion:—(1) the communications from the Sultan and the Great Powers to be made separately; (2) the communication of the Great Powers to the Prince and to the populations to be made through their Agents; (3) the five *Ottoman* proposals to be discussed simultaneously.

Constantinople, 16th November, 1885.

- No. 6. The President communicates to the Conference a telegram from Prince Alexander to the Grand Vizier, to the effect that the Prince had quitted *Eastern Roumelia*. *British* Plenipotentiary announces his readiness to take part in the discussions, and states that his Government has authorised him to consent to the proposal that the inquiry into the condition of *Eastern Roumelia* should be made at the same time as the Commissioner enters upon his duties. *Ottoman* proposals read. Discussion as to functions of Imperial Commissioner. *Russian* Plenipotentiary proposes that the Commissioner should be assisted by Delegates of the Powers. *French* objection. *Russian* proposal supported by *Germany*, *Austria*, and *Italy*. *German* Plenipotentiary suggests that the Delegates should also form the Commission of Inquiry. *British* Plenipotentiary thinks a Council of Notables attached to the Commissioner would be better, but this view is opposed by his *Austrian* colleague. Discussion takes place, and ends in a proposal by the Plenipotentiary of *Italy* that the resolutions of the Conference should now be set down in writing; their final form to be considered at a private meeting. Five *Turkish* proposals again read. The first is put aside as being no longer applicable to the circumstances. With regard to the second, it is agreed that the populations be warned by the Sultan,

[Eastern Roumelia.]

PROTOCOL.

by such channel as he thinks fit, and that the resolutions of the Conference shall be forwarded through the Agents of the respective Governments. With regard to the third point, the proposal to dispatch a Commissioner is adopted, with reservations on the part of the *Russian* and *British* Plenipotentiaries; the former stipulating that an amendment be considered with regard to the powers of the Commissioner and the appointment of Delegates of the Powers, and the latter, that the Inquiry should be proceeded with on the same day as that on which the Commissioner commences his functions. The fourth point is suppressed; its purport being embodied in the third proposal. Fifth point accepted in principle, but to be combined with British proposals. Constantinople, 19th November, 1885.

- No. 7. Draft Resolutions, four in number, read by President. *Italian*, *Austrian*, *German*, and *Russian* Ambassadors give their adhesion to scheme. *French* Plenipotentiary states he is authorised to accept this scheme in its entirety, but that he is ready to discuss any amendments in order to bring about a complete agreement. *British* Plenipotentiary moves that the Conference call upon *Bulgaria* and *Servia* to conclude an Armistice,* and submit their differences to Arbitration. President states that the motion cannot be taken up; but states that the question is being considered by the Porte. *British* Plenipotentiary declares that he can accept, with slight modification, Articles I and II of the Draft Resolutions, but that his Government cannot sanction Articles III and IV, as it prejudices the ulterior arrangements to be decided upon in *Eastern Roumelia*, and must insist on their desire for a thoroughly serious inquiry into the causes of the situation in that province. Discussion as to modifications of preamble and Article II of Draft Resolutions. The Plenipotentiaries agree to transmit the *British* communication to their respective Governments. The date of next meeting fixed.†

Constantinople, 25th November, 1885.

[For Protocol No. 8 of 5th April, 1886, see No. 612.]

* An Armistice was concluded between *Bulgaria* and *Servia* on the 28th November, 1885. The conditions settled by International Military Commission, 21st December, 1885 (No. 609).

† This meeting was not held, but an informal meeting took place at the Kiosque of *Tophané*, on December 1, 1885 (at which the British Ambassador was not present), but a printed Proclamation in French, said to contain the resolutions brought before the Conference, but which had been amended, was shown to Sir W. White, who expressed his surprise at the proceeding, and protested against such a document being issued. The appointment of a Special Commissioner to Eastern Roumelia was announced by Sir W. White in a despatch dated December 3, 1885, in which he called attention to the fact that the Ottoman Government and some of the Representatives of the Powers were taking action as if the Conference had come to a regular agreement on the subject. [See Parliamentary Paper, Turkey, No. 1 (1886)].

[Armistice.]

No. 609.—*ARMISTICE* agreed upon between the Commanders-in-Chief of the Bulgarian and Servian Armies on the 28th November, 1885; subject to the conditions settled by the International Military Commission at Pirot, on the 21st December, 1885.

(Translation.)

THE International Military Commission appointed to settle the conditions of the Armistice which is to be concluded between the Servian and Bulgarian troops, after having studied the position of the two armies on the morning of the 16th (28th) November, 1885, the day on which the operations of the campaign ceased, and after having recognized the military advantages gained by the Bulgarian Army, has determined that the conditions shall be as follows :—

ART. I. The Armistice concluded at Pirot, dated to-day, the 9th (21st) December, 1885, shall last until the 17th February (1st March), 1886.

If between now and that date the Peace to be concluded has not been signed,* the Armistice will be *ipso facto* prolonged, and if it should be broken after the 1st March, the declaration shall be made at least ten days before the resumption of hostilities.

ART. II. The troops of the two belligerent parties shall evacuate those portions of their adversary's territory actually occupied by them.

The Servian troops will be withdrawn first, in such manner that the evacuation by them of the Bulgarian territory shall be terminated by mid-day on the 13th (25th) December, 1885.

The evacuation of the Servian territory by the Bulgarian troops shall be terminated by mid-day on the 15th (27th) December, 1885.

The reoccupation of the localities thus evacuated by the national troops cannot take place until six days after the departure of the hostile troops, but the return of the administrative authorities may take place immediately after that departure. The same arrangement shall apply to the return of the police, whose presence may be necessary to preserve order and security in the country.

ART. III. The frontier between Servia and Bulgaria shall

* The Treaty of Peace between Bulgaria and Servia was signed on the 3rd March, 1886 (No. 610).

[Armistice.]

serve as the line of demarcation between the Bulgarian and Servian Armies, but following this line and on the territory of each of the States, a zone 3 kilom. broad shall remain neutral as long as the Armistice lasts, in such manner that no armed force shall be allowed to enter it, except police officers appointed to preserve order and security in the country, and Customs officers.

ART. IV. The return of prisoners taken by the two belligerents should take place immediately.

An agreement shall be come to on this subject between the officers who have been empowered to sign the Armistice.

These same officers shall settle without delay questions relative to the withdrawal of war material; to the sick and wounded; and to other matters of detail which may arise.

ART. V. The Delegates charged with the negotiations for the conclusion of peace shall be immediately appointed.

Colonel Jopalovitch, of the Servian Army, and Captain Panoff, of the Bulgarian Army, after having produced before the Commission and communicated to each other the full and regular powers with which they have been furnished by the Commanders-in-Chief of the Servian and Bulgarian Armies, have taken note of the conditions above mentioned, drawn up by the International Military Commission. They have signed and exchanged two identical copies of this document.

Pirot, December 9 (21), 1885.

For Bulgaria, PANOFF.

For Servia, P. JOPALOVITCH.

(Countersigned)

Members of the International Military Commission,

G. WEDEL.

ROSENBERG.

DE SALLES.

KEITH FRASER.

A. CERRUTTI.

BARON N. KAULBARS.

CHAKIR

[The International Military Commission sat at Pirot from the 18th till the 21st December, 1885.]

No. 610.—*TREATY OF PEACE between Bulgaria and
Servia. Signed at Bucharest, 3rd March, 1886.*

(Translation.)

In the name of God Almighty.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan, Emperor of the Ottomans, in his capacity as Suzerain of the Principality of Bulgaria, His Majesty the King of Servia, and His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, being equally animated with the desire of re-establishing peace between the Kingdom of Servia and the Principality of Bulgaria, have, for this purpose, provided with their full powers :—On the one part :

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, Abdullah Madjid Pasha, of Roumelia, Beyler Bey, Director of the Press, in the Imperial Foreign Office, decorated with the Order of the Osmanieh of the 3rd Class, and with the Order of the Medjidieh of the 4th Class, &c., as 1st Delegate ;

His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, M. Ivan Evstatieff Guéchoff, Governor of the National Bulgarian Bank, &c., as 2nd Delegate, the selection of which has been approved by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan :—And on the other part :

His Majesty the King of Servia, M. Chedomille Mijatovich, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in London, Commander of the Royal Order of the White Eagle, Grand Officer of the Royal Order of Takovo, &c.

Who, having communicated to each other their Full Powers and found them in good and due form, have agreed upon the following :—Only article :

Peace is re-established between the Kingdom of Servia and the Principality of Bulgaria, dating from the date of the signature of the present Treaty.

The present Act shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Bucharest within a fortnight or sooner if possible.

In faith of which the respective Delegates have signed the present Treaty, and have affixed to it their seals.

Done at Bucharest the ^{19th February}_{3rd March} of the year 1886.

[Here follow the Signatures.]

No. 611.—*ACT agreed upon between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, for modifying Articles XV and XVII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) ; Governor-Generalship of Eastern Roumelia to be entrusted to the Prince of Bulgaria, and Mussulman Villages of Kirdjali and those in Rhodope District to be placed under administration of the Porte. Constantinople, 5th April, 1886.*

Protocol No. 8.—Sitting of 5th April, 1886.

[For Protocols Nos. 1 to 7, 5th to 25th November, 1885, see **No. 608.**]

Present :

For Turkey—

Saïd Pasha, and
Server Pasha.

For Austria-Hungary—

Baron Calice.

For Germany—

M. de Radowitz.

For Russia—

M. de Nélidow.

For Great Britain—

Sir William White.

For Italy—

Baron Galvagna, Italian Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary.

For France—

M. G. Hanotaux, French Chargé d'Affaires.

(Translation.)

THE sitting is opened at 3 o'clock.

The President commences the proceedings with these words:—

“ Since our last meeting (**No. 608**) some changes have been made among the Plenipotentiaries. Count Corti having left Constantinople, Baron Galvagna, Minister of His Majesty the King

of Italy, takes the place of Ambassador amongst us; and the Marquis de Noailles being on leave, M. Hanotaux, French Chargé d’Affaires, sits as Plenipotentiary for his Government. I have the honour to welcome our new colleagues. I have also to announce that, as Sir William White took part in our previous deliberations, the Government of Her Majesty the Queen have expressed the wish that he should also be present at this sitting, and that he should sign in the name of his Government.

“Gentlemen, you are aware of the object of our meeting to-day. In the interval which has elapsed since the last sitting, negotiations—of the purport of which you have been kept informed—have taken place on the subject of the affairs of Eastern Roumelia, and we have unanimously arrived at an Arrangement, the text of which will now be read to you.”

The text of the Arrangement having been read, the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers successively agree to it, in the names of their respective Governments.

His Excellency Saïd Pasha announces the unanimous agreement of the Plenipotentiaries, and proposes to embody it in an Act, to be signed and annexed to the Protocol.

This Act is thereupon drawn up and signed at once.

His Excellency Baron Calice, as Doyen, then says:—

“Before we separate, I beg his Excellency the President to be so good as to cause to be expressed to His Imperial Majesty, in my name, and in the name of all my colleagues, our profound gratitude for the gracious hospitality which he has deigned to grant to us.”

His Excellency Saïd Pasha replies that he will lose no time in transmitting to his august Sovereign the sentiments of gratitude which his Excellency Baron Calice has been so good as to interpret.

In continuation, Baron Calice pays tribute to the moderation and to the perfect courtesy with which the President has directed the labours of the Conference, and expresses the thanks of his colleagues and of himself. He points out that his Excellency Saïd Pasha, by his able management, has greatly contributed to the success of labours on the result of which in a complete agreement the Representatives of the Powers are now congratulating themselves. In conclusion, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador gives special thanks, in the name of the Conference,

to the Secretaries, who have accomplished their laborious task with indefatigable zeal, and to the satisfaction of all.

His Excellency Saïd Pasha thanks Baron Calice for the flattering terms which he has been so good as to use with respect to him. He is happy to be able, in his turn, to record his gratitude to the Representatives of the Powers for the efficacious and kindly assistance which they have unceasingly granted to him throughout the whole duration of the labours of the Conference.

The sitting terminates at 4 o'clock, and the President declares the Conference adjourned.

ACT annexed to Protocol No. 8 of 5th April, 1886.

Table.

1. *Governor-Generalship of Eastern Roumelia entrusted to Prince of Bulgaria.*
2. *Administration by the Porte of Mussulman Villages of Kirdjali and of those in the Rhodope District.*
3. *Commission to be appointed to examine and modify Organic Statute of Eastern Roumelia.*
4. *Maintenance of other provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, respecting Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.*

(Translation.)

The Powers have agreed to accept, from the present moment, the stipulations of the Arrangement respecting the affairs of Eastern Roumelia formulated below, and they give their consent to their being immediately promulgated in that form and carried into execution.

Governor-Generalship of Eastern Roumelia entrusted to Prince of Bulgaria.

1. The Governor-Generalship of Eastern Roumelia shall be entrusted to the Prince of Bulgaria,* in accordance with Article XVII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

* Prince Alexander was dethroned on the $\frac{9\text{th}}{21\text{st}}$ August, 1886; and Prince Ferdinand of Saxe Coburg was elected Prince on the $\frac{2\text{nd}}{14\text{th}}$ August, 1887.

Administration by the Porte of Mussulman Villages of Kirdjali, and of those in the Rhodope District.

2. As long as the administration of Eastern Roumelia and that of the Principality of Bulgaria shall remain in the hands of one and the same person, the Mussulman villages in the canton of Kirdjali, as well as the Mussulman villages situated in the Rhodope district, and which have hitherto been excluded from the administration of Eastern Roumelia, shall be separated from that province, and shall be administered directly by the Imperial Government; and this is in lieu of the right of the Sublime Porte, as laid down in the first paragraph of Article XV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).*

Delimitation of Kirdjali and Rhodope Villages by Technical Commission.

The delimitation of this canton and of the villages in question shall be carried out by a Technical Commission appointed by the Sublime Porte and by the Prince of Bulgaria. This Commission will visit the territories in question, and the necessary strategical conditions will, of course, be considered on the spot for the best interests of the Imperial Government.†

Commission to be appointed to examine and modify Organic Statute of Eastern Roumelia.

3. With a view to insure for the future the order and tranquillity of Eastern Roumelia, as well as the prosperity of all subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan inhabiting that province, a Commission appointed by the Sublime Porte and by the Prince of Bulgaria shall be directed to examine the Organic Statute of that province (No. 546), and to modify it, with due regard to the exigencies of the situation and local requirements. All the interests of the Imperial Ottoman Treasury shall be likewise taken into consideration.

* The first paragraph of Art. XV of the Treaty of Berlin ran as follows:—"His Majesty the Sultan shall have the right of providing for the defence of the land and sea frontiers of the Province, by erecting fortifications on those frontiers and maintaining troops there."

† This Commission sat from 8th May till 13th June, 1886. See *Protocols*, No. 613.

This Commission shall complete its labours within a period of four months, and their result shall be submitted to the sanction of the Conference at Constantinople. Until these modifications shall have been sanctioned, the task of administering the province in accordance with the forms demanded by the present condition of affairs shall be entrusted to the wisdom and fidelity of the Prince.

*Maintenance of other provisions of Treaty of Berlin, respecting
Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.*

4. All other dispositions of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) relative to the Principality of Bulgaria and to Eastern Roumelia are, and continue to be, maintained and in force.

Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia to be revised.

The Powers will likewise give their formal sanction to this Act in a Conference which shall meet at Constantinople when they shall be in a position to sanction the revised Statute of Eastern Roumelia (No. 546).

Done and signed at Constantinople, the 5th day of the month of April, in the year 1886, at the Imperial Kiosque of Top-hané.

SAID.
SERVER.
CALICE.
RADOWITZ.
NÉLIDOW.
W. A. WHITE.
GALVAGNA.
GABRIEL HANOTAUX.

*French Reservation: Duties on French Goods imported into Eastern
Roumelia.*

(Translation.)

By order of my Government, I have the honour to declare that, in giving their adhesion to the text of the arrangement, the Government of the Republic understand that the situation

[Kirdjali and Rhodope Villages.]

now created with regard to commerce in their relations with Roumelia will not be prejudiced in any way, and that, whatever Customs Regulations may be established, it will entail no increase of the dues to which French products imported into Roumelia by way of Turkey are at present subject.

British Reservation. Right of Renomination of Prince Alexander after five years.

(Translation.)

Her Britannic Majesty's Government reserve to themselves the right of proposing, at the end of the first term of five years, the renomination of Prince Alexander in such terms as may then accord with the interests of Bulgaria and of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 612.—*COLLECTIVE NOTES* addressed by the Treaty Powers to Greece, owing to its attitude towards Turkey. *Ultimatum; Blockade of Greek Ports, in consequence of the non-compliance by Greece with the demands of the Treaty Powers.* May, 1886.

British Circular, 6th May, 1886.

ON the 6th May, 1886, the following Circular Despatch was addressed by the Earl of Rosebery to Her Majesty's representatives abroad:—

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with deep regret that the efforts which have been made by them, in conjunction with the other Great Powers, to obtain explicit assurances of an immediate reduction of the armaments of Greece have not as yet been successful.

It is not necessary that I should dwell upon the sympathy for Greece and the interest in her welfare which have constantly been felt in this country, and which have found their expression in the policy pursued by successive Administrations. The British Government were the first to propose that Greece should be represented at the Congress of Berlin in 1878 (**No. 528**), they gave a willing assent to the resolution brought forward in the Congress by the French and Italian Plenipotentiaries in favour of a rectification of the Greek frontier, and they were active in urging and supporting the claims of Greece in the arduous negotiations which terminated in the acquisition in 1881, by the Hellenic Kingdom, on the mediation of the Powers, of the rich province of Thessaly (**No. 584**).

The British Government frankly avowed at the time that the settlement which was arrived at in those negotiations was not quite so favourable to Greece as they could have wished. But it gave her a large and valuable accession of territory, with a population, on the whole, well affected to her rule. It was the best solution that could be obtained without a struggle which was certain to be exhausting to both the contending parties, and of which the issue could not be otherwise than hazardous to Greece. Great Britain joined, therefore, with the other Powers in pressing its acceptance upon the Hellenic Government. That Government, in reply, stated that Greece desired peace, and was grateful to Europe for its efforts in

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favour of a pacific solution of the question. They recommended to the justice and consideration of the Great Powers the populations of Hellenic race left outside the new frontiers, and they intimated their acceptance of the territories assigned to them without further demur or condition.

Great Britain and the other Mediating Powers thereupon urged the Porte to adhere definitively, and without delay, to the proposed arrangement. It was embodied in the Convention between the Great Powers and Turkey of the 24th May, 1881 (No. 584), as the result of the mediation contemplated by Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), and as intended to give a definitive solution to the question. It was further recorded in a Convention between Turkey and Greece (No. 586).

In these negotiations the British Government took a prominent and responsible part.

Her Majesty's Government have been unable to perceive any justification in subsequent events for reopening the question, or for casting doubt on the validity of these solemn and recent engagements.

When, in September last, the population of Eastern Roumelia declared itself with singular unanimity in favour of union with the Principality of Bulgaria, the efforts of the Great Powers were directed to the maintenance of European peace, and to the preservation, in its spirit and essence, of the settlement arrived at under the negotiations contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

They were, indeed, unable to prevent the outbreak of a contest between Servia and Bulgaria, in spite of their earnest remonstrances; a contest in which the attacking party proved unsuccessful, and did not receive, as, indeed, it could not expect, any sympathy from other countries.

That war has happily been brought to a close without spreading further (No. 610), and an arrangement has been come to for the future government of Eastern Roumelia, after careful discussion between the Great Powers and the Porte (No. 611), which, while maintaining with strictness the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), promises to be acceptable to the inhabitants, and to secure their future tranquillity and well-being.

It is unnecessary here to examine whether the close relations between that province and the Principality of Bulgaria can be

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deemed indirectly antagonistic to designs of Greek aggrandizement in the distant future; but Her Majesty's Government entirely deny that the new arrangement can be held to involve any danger to the security of Greece herself, or to the prosperity of the other populations of Hellenic race.

But if such a danger existed, the policy which Greece has pursued is certainly not of a nature to avert it. Her natural condition demands a long period of peace devoted to the development of her resources and the consolidation of her institutions. By displaying in the East the spectacle of a well-ordered State pursuing the path of material and constitutional progress, with light taxation and diminishing debt, she would have attracted the active sympathy of the Powers, ever ready to welcome any promise of stability and order in that region.

But her course on this occasion has encouraged her enemies and disheartened her friends. In a paroxysm of irritation at the possible enlargement of a neighbouring and friendly Christian State, she has rushed to arms and made herself not the calming and exemplary, but the menacing, element in the condition of the East. At a ruinous sacrifice she has raised an army wholly disproportionate to her population on the one hand, and on the other wholly inadequate to cope with the largely superior forces of an Empire whose soldiers have a traditional reputation, an Empire with which she is at peace, and which has offered her no imaginable cause of offence. This she has done in the face of repeated remonstrances from all the Powers who have taken a friendly interest in her cause, and who have warned her of the risks which she is incurring, and of the absence of all justification for such a policy. Her attitude is imposing upon the Porte immense sacrifices in the maintenance of armies designed to meet and overcome a possible Greek attack. The agriculture of Turkey is in many places almost at a standstill from the drain on the population caused by the maintenance of this defensive army. The financial position of the Ottoman Empire cannot but be exceedingly grave. The state of things produced by the Greek Government is no less exhausting to that Empire than to Greece.

It cannot be expected that the Turkish Government should consent to remain for an indefinite period in this condition of armed expectation. They have on several occasions addressed the Governments of the Great Powers on the subject, and had

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it not been for the strenuous appeals of these Powers to the Porte to maintain a pacific and conciliatory attitude, matters would long before this have been brought to a crisis by the presentation of a direct demand on the part of Turkey for Greek disarmament. It has been to save the Hellenic Government from this contingency, to maintain the faith of European engagements, and to avert the risk of a war, the consequences of which, however incalculable in other directions, could not fail to be calamitous to Greece, that the friendly pressure of Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers has been exercised.

The course they have pursued has not been hasty, and has abounded in consideration for the susceptibilities of the Hellenic Government.

On the 9th October last a verbal communication was made in identical terms by the Representatives of the Great Powers at Athens, urging upon the Hellenic Cabinet the necessity of prudence and moderation, and pointing out the dangers to which Greece was exposing herself by her military preparations.

On the 22nd of the same month the same Representatives addressed to M. Delyanni a collective note, inclosing a copy of the Declaration agreed upon by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, and urging the Greek Government to refrain from any steps calculated to compromise the general peace.

To these communications M. Delyanni replied by statements that the movement at Philippopoli had disturbed the settlement effected by the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), and had rendered necessary fresh arrangements for the protection of the Greek nationality.

On the 11th January the Representatives presented a collective note inviting the Greek Government to disarm simultaneously with Servia and Bulgaria, and informing them that the Porte would in that case also demobilize its forces.

To this M. Delyanni replied by a refusal.

On the 25th January, after a friendly warning from Her Majesty's Government, which was again unsuccessful, the Representatives delivered a collective note stating that, in the absence of any just ground for war on the part of Greece against Turkey, and in view of the injury which would be

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caused by it to the commerce of other nations, a naval attack by Greece on Turkey would not be permitted.

M. Delyanni replied by a protest against any interference with the liberty of action of the Greek naval forces.

No modification took place in the attitude of the Greek Government, nor was there any relaxation in the progress of their military preparations.

A Decree was issued on the 26th March calling out two more classes of the reserves.

On the 13th April the Representatives communicated to M. Delyanni the conclusion of the arrangement with regard to Eastern Roumelia (No. 611), with the expression of a hope that Greece would comply with the unanimous wish of Europe for the maintenance of peace.

M. Delyanni answered on the 17th that Greece had hitherto done nothing to disturb the general peace, but that the Hellenic Government could not give up the desire to obtain the frontier indicated by the Conference of Berlin (No. 526).

At the same time negotiations were reported to be in progress for the raising of a fresh loan of 90,000,000 fr.; it was stated that the troops quartered at Athens were about to be dispatched to the Thessalian frontier, and intelligence was received of a skirmish, fortunately of no importance, having occurred between the Turkish and Greek forces.

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government, who with the other Powers had recently received an earnest appeal from the Turkish Government to procure the disarmament of Greece, instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Athens to join with the Representatives of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and Russia in the presentation of a Collective Note calling upon the Greek Government to place the Hellenic forces on a peace footing without delay, and to give assurances within eight days that orders had been issued to that effect.

Before this instruction had been acted upon, the French Minister at Athens communicated to M. Delyanni a telegram from M. de Freycinet strongly urging the Greek Government to comply with the wishes of the Powers. M. Delyanni replied in a private note, stating that the Greek Government had decided to adhere to the advice of the French Government, and that he reserved to himself to make an official communication.

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to that effect on the arrival of the Minister of War from Thessaly on Tuesday, the 27th.

Copies of this letter and of M. de Freycinet's telegram were sent by M. Delyanni to each of the other Representatives, who were unanimously of opinion that the assurances thus given were not of a nature to enable them to defer acting on their instructions. Their proceedings were approved by their respective Governments.

The collective note was therefore presented on the 26th ultimo. The reply of M. Delyanni, dated the 29th, referred to the letter which he had addressed to the French Minister on the 25th, and which he had already communicated to the Representatives. M. Delyanni added that the Hellenic Government, having adhered to the advice of France, had thereby given a solemn assurance that Greece, in compliance with the wishes of the Great Powers, would not disturb the peace; that a principal consequence of this adhesion was that Greece would not keep under the flag the actual effective strength of the army, and that, consequently, her Government would proceed to the gradual reduction of that effective strength in the period dictated by the prudence indispensable for such an operation.*

Her Majesty's Government have no wish, in a matter of such gravity, to lay stress upon questions of form. They would have been very willing to have overlooked or to have regarded as unintentional any apparent want of courtesy or frankness in replying to a collective request for direct and formal assurances by a reference to an answer previously given to the Representative of another country to the effect that Greece had accepted the advice given by his Government, without any explicit statement of the meaning to be attached to that phrase. Nor would it perhaps be wise to attach too much importance to the reported utterances and Circulars of the Greek Minister which were calculated to remove any peaceful impression that his note might have afforded. But, putting aside any such objections, it is clear on examination that this reply does not in substance contain a sufficient answer to the collective note of the 26th April, and that the assurances given in it are too vague to justify the Powers in advising Turkey to disarm. The Turkish and Greek armies would consequently be left face to face on the frontier

* See Parliamentary Paper. "Greece No. 1. (1886)."

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for an indefinite period, with the constant risk of a collision. In fact, the answer leaves the present perilous situation unchanged and unmodified.

It has therefore been unanimously recognised by the Governments who joined in the collective note that the reply cannot be accepted as satisfactory. A suggestion was made by me that the Greek Government should, of their own accord, supplement it by written explanations of a definite character as to the progress of disarmament, which I would have endeavoured to induce the other Governments to accept as sufficient, and to keep secret, if so desired, for a short period. M. Delyanni, however, refused to avail himself of this opportunity. He contends, as I understand, that the collective note of the 26th restrains the hitherto uncontrolled liberty of action of the Greek Government, which therefore cannot disarm; and, further, that a small State cannot yield to pressure as a Great Power might, without loss of dignity. To this it is sufficient to reply that the Greek Government has not enjoyed liberty of action, in that sense, since the note of the 25th January; and that no doctrine can be conceived more fatal to those principles of self-respect and moral equality which form the basis of international relations than the theory that a small State has not the same freedom to act rightly and do its duty, nay, even to acknowledge itself in the wrong, that is enjoyed by a great Power.

Under these circumstances, the Representatives have been instructed to address a further note to M. Delyanni, taking note of the peaceful assurances of the Greek Government, but stating that these are not sufficiently precise to effect the objects in view, and asking for further explanations.*

If no satisfactory answer should be received to this last communication, it will become necessary for Her Majesty's Government to consider with the other Powers with whom they are acting the means of exercising material pressure upon the Hellenic Government to induce compliance with their reasonable demands. Her Majesty's Government believe that in the employment of such measures they are adopting a course more friendly and favourable to Greece than that of leaving her to face single-handed a conflict with Turkey. But whether this be so or not, the first duty of Her Majesty's Government is to co-operate with the other European Powers for the maintenance

* See Parliamentary Paper, "Greece, No. 1 (1886)."

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of the general peace. The welfare of Greece and of the Hellenic races outside her frontier has not ceased to be the object of that friendly solicitude of which this country has given so many proofs; but they feel bound, for that very reason, to oppose a policy of unjust aggression, not less unjustifiable because pursued by a small State, which threatens disaster to Greece and a wanton disturbance of European peace.

I am, &c.,
ROSEBERY.

Blockade of the Coasts of Greece.

On the 7th May the Representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, Germany, Italy, and Turkey, left Athens; and on the 8th May the following Collective Note was presented to the Greek Government by the representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, Germany, Italy, and Russia:—

(Translation.)

“The Undersigned, Representatives of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia, are instructed by their respective Governments to address to the Cabinet of Athens the following communication:—

“The reply of the Cabinet of Athens to the collective note of the 26th April not being of a nature to give satisfaction to the Powers, the Governments above mentioned have given orders to the Commanders of their united squadrons to establish a blockade of the coasts of Greece against all ships under Greek flag.

“This blockade will become effective from the date of the present declaration, and will extend from Cape Malea to Cape Colonna, and from thence to the northern frontier of Greece, including the Island of Eubœa, and will also comprise on the west coast the entrance to the Gulf of Corinth.

“Every ship under Greek flag which may attempt to violate this blockade will render itself liable to be detained.”

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[A notice of this blockade (dated May 10th, 1886) was inserted in the "London Gazette" of May 14th, 1886. The British Commander-in-Chief was informed that whenever the blockade was raised, he would receive instructions to release the vessels which had been detained, and that he would thereupon take steps to establish and place on record the condition of vessels at the time of their release, and also whether they had suffered any damage during detention; but that Her Majesty's Government did not admit any liability whatever to make compensation to the owners of such on that or other grounds. The Admiral was further instructed to afford such facilities as he reasonably could towards enabling the released ships to return to the ports to which they belonged, and he was told that if they were towed by Her Majesty's ships, it was to be distinctly understood that it was at their own risk (Circular, 25th May, 1886).

Peaceful Assurances of Greek Government. Blockade Raised.

On the 24th May, a Circular was addressed by the Greek Government to the Commander of the Greek Forces at Larissa, Trikala, and Arta, ordering them to withdraw from the frontier, and Decrees were issued demobilising certain troops, and ordering large reductions in the navy; and on the 7th June a Collective Note was addressed by the Russian Envoy, and by the Representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Italy, to the Greek Government, informing it that, in consequence of these measures having been taken, and of the further pacific assurances given by the Cabinet of Athens, there was no longer need for the prolongation of the rigorous measures to which they had had recourse in the interests of the general peace; and that, consequently, in the name of their respective Governments, they informed the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs that the officers commanding the combined squadrons had received orders to raise the blockade of the coasts of Greece.*]

* See Parliamentary Paper. "Greece No. 4 (1886)."

No. 613.—*PROTOCOLS of SITTINGS of Turkish and Bulgarian Commissioners* appointed under Art. II of the Arrangement of 5th April, 1886 (No. 611), for the Delimitation of the Canton of Kirdjali and of the Rhodope District. 8th May—13th June, 1886.*

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS.

PROTOCOL.

No. 1. Verification of Powers. Chakir Pasha elected President. President considers it disadvantageous to carry frontier completely round the canton of *Kirdjali*, which would cut off its communication with *Adrianople*, and proposes to proceed with the delimitation in such a manner as to avoid that contingency. *Bulgarian* Commissioner objects to any departure being taken from the delimitation of *Kirdjali* as indicated in the Arrangement, and, after further explanations by *Turkish* Commissioner, decides to refer to *Sophia* for fresh instructions. Consideration of method of proceeding with delimitation. Natural lines to be adopted wherever possible. Decision as to route to be followed.

Kodja Kechla, ^{26th April,}
8th May, 1886.

No. 2. Frontier-line from commencement to crest of *Buyuk Gueuney* fixed. Discussion of frontier-lines from *Buyuk Gueuney* to north-east of *Caouchite*. Difficulty in carrying on the work, owing to contradictory information given by inhabitants. Commission decide to make a fresh reconnaissance on the ground. Sitting held on the ground. Tracing fixed, a mean being taken between the wants of the two parties, but the question of principle being reserved.

Kodja Kechla, ^{1st}
13th May, 1886.

No. 3. Frontier between *Bazar Engukhi* and the *Fazla Dere*. Inhabitants of *Hassabos* to continue to cut wood in the copse from which the new frontier-line separates them, but a division of that copse to be subsequently effected.

Boghadjik, ⁵/₁₇th May, 1886.

No. 4. Frontier fixed as far as junction of the *Kemerlek Dere* and *Oulon Dere*. Discussion of direction which it should take beyond that point. *Ottoman* proposal. *Bulgarian* objections and counter-proposal, which in turn is rejected by *Ottoman* Com-

* The Commissioners were—

	{	H. E. General Chakir Pasha.
For Turkey :	{	Major Mehmed Bey.
	{	Nichan Efendi Djiwonian.
For Bulgaria :	{	Captain Veltsheff.
	{	Captain Sawoff.

[Kirdjali and Rhodope Villages.]

PROTOCOL.

missioner. Decision arrived at to indicate the two lines on the map, and leave the settlement to the respective Governments. Delimitation of rest of frontier to be continued.

Tchanakdji, ^{28th May,}
9th June, 1886.

No. 5. Rest of frontier fixed. Renewal of discussion raised in 1st Protocol respecting communications between *Kirdjali* and *Adrianople*. *Bulgarian* Commissioner cannot but hold to his previous declarations. *Turkish* Commissioner thereupon withdraws his proposal under reserve. Plans and maps of frontier examined and signed by Commissioners. Delimitation of *Rhodope* to be proceeded with.

Tchanakdji, ^{1st}
13th June, 1886.

CAHIER DE SPÉCIFICATION de la nouvelle Frontière, tracée conformément à l'Art. II de l'Arrangement du 5 Avril dernier (No. 611), pour séparer le Canton de Kerdjali de la Province de la Roumélie Orientale.

La nouvelle frontière prend son point de départ au confluent des hautes eaux du ruisseau d'Ak-Bounar Déré avec la rivière d'Arda.

En quittant l'Arda, la frontière remonte le thalweg du ravin d'Ak-Bounar Déré dans une direction presque droite vers les N. E. en laissant les villages d'Osman Pachalar, Aktché Alan et Mahmat Keuy à la Turquie et ceux d'Ak-Bounar et de Kiralar à la Roumélie-Orientale. A l'origine du ravin d'Ak-Bounar-Déré, elle gagne une selle de hauteur sur laquelle viennent se croiser les trois routes suivantes :—La route qui mène de Mahmat Keuy à Hodjalar ; celle qui va du même village à Kodja-Kechla et celle qui se rend de Karamoussalar à Dédéler en suivant la ligne du partage des eaux de la chaîne d'Ambarlich.

A partir du point d'intersection de ces routes, la frontière tourne à l'Est et en suivant le partage des eaux dans cette direction atteint successivement la crête de Caplounbaghi Serte (autrement dite Tosbaghe Serte, marquée sur la carte russe sub No. 244) et celle de Nalband Tépé. Elle descend ensuite à l'origine du ravin de Kirasle Déré, dont elle suit le thalweg jusqu'à l'endroit où le dit ravin se croise avec Foundoucle Déré, auprès d'une source d'eau vive, connue sous le nom de Tach Pounar. De là, elle change de direction vers l'Est, gagne en ligne droite le contrefort formé par le point culminant du massif de Sakardji Doghroussou, appelé Er-Mezare, et après avoir atteint le sommet d'une éminence de ce contrefort dite Julik Yaltesse, elle tourne au N. pour descendre en ligne droite vers un arbre sec situé à l'endroit dit Malkazde, en laissant ainsi le village de Kudja-Kechla à la Turquie et Foundoudjak à la R. Orientale. Elle s'incline ensuite vers le N.E. et va en ligne droite à Devletli Aghadji sis sur le contrefort des hauteurs de Kaouchite. De ce dernier point, elle prend une direction N. O., et après avoir atteint, en ligne droite, la crête de Beuyuk Gueuney, tourne à l'Ouest pour suivre la crête jusqu'à la selle d'hauteur sise au N. du village de

Kaouchite. De là elle tourne au N. et descend en ligne droite au ruisseau de Tokmak Déré, qu'elle atteint à un point distant de quatre-cents mètres en aval du pont reliant la route de Kaouchite à Eliler. Elle laisse ainsi le village de Kaouchite à la Turquie et Gueren Mahallé, Yaghdjele et Kavak Mahallé à la R. Orientale.

La frontière change ensuite de direction pour remonter le thalweg de Tokmak Déré jusqu'au débouché d'une ravine descendant de la hauteur de Kaba Eunykh Baghleghe Tepessi; elle prend cette ravine pour en remonter le cours jusqu'à son origine, tourne ensuite au S. et arrive en ligne droite à la crête de la susdite hauteur de Kaba-Eunykh. De là, elle suit, dans une direction à peu près O., jusqu'à Sari Gueul Tépé, en laissant Hodjalar à la Turquie et Eliler à R. Orientale. Elle s'incline ensuite vers le N.O. suit les crêtes de la chaîne de Kezeldjik-Dagh jusqu'au sommet de Yantcha Doghroussou change de nouveau de direction au N. pour se diriger en ligne droite vers le ruisseau de Bovadjek-déré qu'elle franchit à un point distant de deux-cents mètres du moulin dit Keuprulu Suleïman Agha Déghirmeni, qu'elle laisse à la Turquie, et s'inclinant au N.O. monte sur la hauteur de Pazar Euyuk. Les villages de Tépédjik, Bovadjikle et Daghe Keuy restent ainsi au Kerdjali et Hassabos à la R. Orientale.

De Pazar Euyuk Tépé la frontière prend l'origine du ruisseau de Yazla Déré, dont elle descend le cours jusqu'à l'endroit dit Sari Yar, à l'intersection du ravin de Yéni-Mahallé avec Yazla Déré; elle entre alors dans le dit ravin de Yéni-Mahallé dont elle suit le thalweg jusqu'au débouché d'une petite ravine dont elle remonte le cours dans une direction N.O. jusqu'à son origine sur la hauteur de Suvenlik Baghleghe. De ce dernier point, elle change de direction vers le S.O. et suit le partage des eaux pour arriver à Karakol Tépé en laissant le village de Yéni-Mahallé à la Turquie. De Karakol Tépé elle se rend dans une direction N.O. à Felli-kaya et après avoir suivi un petit ravin qui débouche dans le ruisseau de Kavak-Déré, elle remonte le cours de ce ruisseau dans une direction S.O. en laissant à gauche l'arbre connu sous le nom de Karacouche Kavak. Au confluent de Kavak Déré avec le ruisseau de Doghrouk Mahallé Déressi, elle entre dans ce dernier Déré dont elle remonte le thalweg jusqu'à Doghrouk Mahallé Tépé; elle prend ensuite le ravin qui sépare le taillis (battalik) de la forêt de Bey-keuy, et vient couper le Bal Daghirmeni Déré, à deux-cents mètres environ en amont de son confluent avec Sarp Déré. De là, elle suit le cours du ruisseau de Bal Deghirmen jusqu'au dit confluent, entre dans le Sarp Déré qui a une direction à peu près Ouest et dont elle remonte le cours jusqu'à son origine, contourne la colline de Guïavour Euyuk (Tcherkovitché) qu'elle laisse à la R. Orientale, s'incline au N.O. et va en ligne droite à Tasse Tépé après avoir franchi le ravin de Mahmoud Oghlou Déré, pour aboutir, de là à Gueutch Raya sis sur le contrefort de Tchoban Bairam.

De ce dernier point, la frontière tourne au S. suit le dit contrefort jusqu'à son point culminant, tourne ensuite à l'Ouest et en passant par le point dit Courd Vourouldou, elle va, en ligne, droite à Kara Raya Déré (autrement dit Kara Tchalelek Déré), qu'elle franchit. Elle change ensuite de direction vers le S. et suit la ligne du contrefort Habib Tarla Tokat jusqu'à Tetrelék Tépé. Arrivée à ce point, elle tourne à l'Ouest, descend par le cours de

Dalak Déré jusqu'à son confluent avec le ruisseau de Kessek kaya Deressi entre dans ce dernier ruisseau dont elle remonte le cours jusqu'au débouché d'un petit ravin qu'elle suit pour monter à la selle sise entre le Grand et le Petit Tikenlik Tépé. Sur son parcours depuis Doghrouk Mahallé jusqu'aux deux Tikenlik, la frontière laisse au S. à la Turquie les villages de Bey-keuy, Aï-Dogh mouche et Aktché Kaïrak et au N. pour la R. Orientale Mandra, Kotchachli, Eski Keuy et Aslan Mahallé.

La frontière en quittant la selle des deux Tikenlik, se dirige en ligne droite vers l'Ouest à Malkaz de Tépé, suit le partage des eaux jusqu'à la fontaine située au pied du même tépé, tourne ensuite au S.O. prend le ravin de Kalfalar Keuy dont elle descend le thalweg jusqu'à une distance de quatre-cents mètres environ des premières maisons du village Kalfalar, qui reste à la Turquie. A ce point, elle quitte le ravin pour monter au sommet de Tchareklé Tépé, sis au N.O. du village, d'où elle suit la ligne du partage des eaux de ce contrefort dans une direction S.O. pour descendre à l'intersection de la route allant de Kalfalar à Kovanlik. De là, elle tourne à l'Ouest et suivant toujours la ligne du partage des eaux, atteint la crête d'Ardeklé Doghroussou; elle s'incline ensuite vers le N.O. et continuant à suivre le partage des eaux, passe par la selle de Karacouche Youvaleghe, prend la crête de Yakadjik Serte et de Sera Kayalar, cotoie la hauteur de Hassan Tépé, qu'elle laisse à la R. Orientale, passe par Desté Bounar, sis à l'Ouest du dit Tépé et s'inclinant au N.O. atteint à peu près en ligne droite l'endroit connu sous le nom d'Eski Mechatlik. (Il reste entendu que le baltalik situé entre Hassan Tépé et Aktché Pounar devra être utilisé comme par le passé par les habitants des communes voisines sises en deça ou au delà de la ligne frontière.)

A partir d'Eski Méchalik la frontière se dirige vers le Nord en décrivant une courbe et après avoir suivi la ligne du partage des eaux formée par le contrefort de Tilki-Inlighi, atteint la crête du contrefort de Horassan Bunar Tépessi (No. 2 du plan) en franchissant le ravin qui sépare ces deux contreforts; elle tourne ensuite à l'Est gagne la hauteur plantée de vignes, sise au Sud de Poundjadjik (No. 3 du plan) puis, en s'inclinant au Nord est se rend en ligne droite à Manave Tokat Tépé (No. 4 du plan) d'où elle va en s'inclinant au Nord, et toujours par une ligne droite à Akherian Mezarleghe (No. 5 du plan). De ce dernier point, elle prend une direction N.E. et passant par quelques collines, sises sur le partage des eaux, atteint le sommet de Tasse Tépé. Elle laisse ainsi les villages de Gueren (Kara Guenzler), Almalik, Molla-Moussalar, Gabrovo, Poundadjik et Chéremetler à la Turquie et Kouvanlek à la R. Orientale.

De tasse-tépé, la frontière se dirige vers l'Est, passe par la hauteur (No. 6 du plan) sise au N.O. de Horozlar village, qui reste à la R. Orientale; tournant ensuite au N.E. passe par le monticule sub No. 7 du plan et en suivant la ligne du partage des eaux tombe à la rivière d'Oulou Déré, à un point sis en face de son confluent avec Outchma Déré, à droite du moulin dit Casnak Oghlon Deghirméni. Elle entre alors dans ce dernier Déré dont elle remonte le thalweg vers le nord jusqu'à la rencontre de la route qui va de Kesekle à Seïd Benli. Elle change ensuite de direction en tournant au S.O. passe par l'éminence (No. 16 du plan), sise au Sud du village de Kezekle, s'incline au N.O. et va en ligne droite couper le ravin de Kodja Tarla Déré,

à un kilomètre de distance au N. de la rivière d'Oulou Déré, en laissant ainsi le village Kezekle à la Roumélie Orientale, et Caramanlar au Kerdjali ; elle descend ensuite par le ravin de Kodja Tarla dans une direction S.E. pour rejoindre Ourlou Déré, dont elle remonte le cours jusqu'au point No. 18 du plan, en laissant à la R. Orientale les deux moulins marqués sur le plan.

Au point No. 18 la frontière quitte de nouveau Oulou Déré pour se diriger au N.O. par la d'un contrefort jusqu'à une distance d'à peu près un kilomètre au N. d'Oulou Déré (No. 19 du plan) d'où elle retourne au S.O. pour revenir à Oulou Déré qu'elle atteint auprès du moulin dit Mahmoud Agha Déghirmeni, resté à la Turquie. Elle laisse ainsi Dourak-Keuy et Koumroular au Kerdjali et Sarnidji à la R. Orientale. De ce dernier point elle remonte le thalweg d'Ouloudéré dans une direction générale No. 6 jusqu'à son confluent avec le ruisseau de Kemerlik Déré (No. 8 du plan).

A ce point, la frontière, selon le projet Ottoman, quitte Oulou Déré et tourne au N. pour remonter le thalweg de Kemerlik Déré jusqu'à la hauteur de Tellik Dogroussou. Arrivée à ce dernier endroit, elle prend le ravin de Tellik Déré dont elle descend le thalweg jusqu'au point de son confluent avec Douchkra Déré et Almalik Déré. Elle tourne alors à l'Ouest pour entrer dans ce dernier déré dont elle remonte le cours jusqu'à son origine à Yel-Guédik. Elle se dirige au S.O. pour suivre le partage des eaux en passant successivement par la selle de Roum Euldi Guedik (No. 11 du plan) et le crête de Tchilik Tarlassé Tépé laisse à la Turquie la position de Kilissé Baïr (No. 12 du plan) où il se trouve construit un poste de gendarmes, tourne au S.E. à l'origine d'une ravine dont elle descend le cours jusqu'à l'endroit connu sous le nom d'Idriss Agha Tchesmessi. A cet point, elle tourne de nouveau au S.O. monte sur la hauteur de Horoz Konaghe Tepessi et suit la ligne des crêtes pour aboutir à Tcharnakdji Déré.

Selon le projet bulgare, la frontière continue à remonter le cours de la rivière d'Oulou-Déré (Basch-Aigher Oulouk-Déré de la Carte Russe) jusqu'à l'endroit nommé Tchatal Djevis (autrement dit Couroutchesmé (No. 15 du plan) tourne ensuite au sud atteint la selle d'Alai Gueyney (No. 13 du plan) d'où elle va en ligne droite à la plaine du Sare-Guenl, passe par Nalle-Tcham et après avoir suivi la route de Tcheradji-Youlou, gagne l'endroit connu sous le nom de Henzer-Gueul pour aboutir de là à Tchanakdje-Déré.

A la rencontre à Tchanakdje-Déré des deux tracés projetés, la frontière définitive continue à suivre ce ravin jusqu'à son point d'intersection avec Kokez-Déré. Elle prend alors le thalweg de ce dernier déré pour le quitter ensuite et suivre dans une direction S.O. le contrefort de Guézeldjek le Tchaïr, dont elle atteint le point le plus élevé à Capan Ghedik. De ce point, elle suit le contrefort de Gurghen Mandra et vient aboutir à Raca-Déré, à l'ancienne frontière de la Roumélie Orientale en laissant ainsi les villages de Kiraz Tarla (Yeni-keuy) Tchanakdji, Murya-Dame, Kaka-Déré Keuy ainsi que les maisons d'Emine Tchaouch au Kerdjali et les villages Karadjalar, Sare-tach et Altch-tépé à la R. Orientale.

CHAKIR.
MEHMED.
VELTCHEFF.
SAWOFF.

[Batoum.]

No. 614.—*RUSSIAN NOTIFICATION of the intention of the Emperor to terminate the Arrangement, embodied in Art. LIX of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), constituting Batoum a Free Port. 3rd July, 1886.*

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir R. Morier, British Ambassador at St. Petersburg.

(Extract.)

. Foreign Office, July 3, 1886.

At an interview which I had with the Russian Ambassador to-day, his Excellency read to me a Circular despatch from his Government, and delivered to me a Notice, of which I inclose a copy herewith,* announcing the intention of the Emperor to terminate the Arrangement, embodied in the LIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), constituting Batoum a free port.

In handing me this document M. de Staal made a verbal statement to the following effect :

His Excellency said that the provision, by virtue of which Batoum was granted the privileges of a free port, although formally included in the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), was none the less due to the spontaneous initiative of His Majesty the Emperor Alexander II, and was so accepted by the Congress. The object of this provision was to insure the interests of commerce in transit, which the port in question formerly served, and to contribute at the same time to the development of the welfare of the population which had just been annexed to Russia. But, as the experience of eight years had sufficiently proved, the results obtained by the application of the system inaugurated in 1878 had not fulfilled the intentions of the Imperial Government. With regard to trade, Batoum no longer enjoyed such importance as it did before the suppression of transit by the Caucasus. It had only preserved such importance as resulted from its geographical position as the terminus of the railway which traversed that country. Moreover, as appeared from the Circular, the existence of a Customs cordon at the very gates of the town created an insurmountable barrier to the development of local industry, and weighed heavily on the neighbouring population, which was obliged to obtain from thence all the necessaries of life. In his solicitude

* See page 3175.

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for the welfare of this district, His Majesty the Emperor did not deem it possible to permit this state of things to exist any longer, and he had resolved henceforth to apply at Batoum the system in force at the other commercial ports of the Empire.

M. de Staal was instructed to add that the Imperial Government had too much confidence in the sentiments of equity of the Powers to admit that this measure could give rise to any objection on their part. It was only destined to give just satisfaction to the wishes of a population whose most legitimate interests had been injured, and to set aside the obstacles which prevented the natural and progressive development of a province of the Empire. Furthermore, as Batoum was to preserve in the future the character of a port essentially commercial, the measure in no way modified the actual state of things in the Black Sea, and could not, consequently, be considered as contrary to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, as a whole, which the Imperial Government had never, under any circumstances, failed to observe.

I told his Excellency that, in my opinion, the matter, though it did not concern this country alone, but affected all the Powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin, was most grave. Its gravity consisted mainly in this, that Russia, of her own motion and without consulting the other Signatory Powers, had declared null one of the principal stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), and one which had been taken as a set-off against the relinquishment of claims which were considered essential by the British Representatives at the Congress.

To illustrate my meaning I pointed out to his Excellency some passages from the 14th Protocol of the Congress of the 6th July, 1878 (**No. 528**), when the question of Batoum was discussed. On that occasion Prince Gortchakoff, after announcing the abandonment of the Russian claims to Erzeroum, Bayazid, and the Valley of Alashkerd, proceeded as follows :—

“I am further authorized to declare that my august Master, exercising his right of sovereignty, will declare Batoum a free port. This meets the material interests of all commercial nations, and more particularly, perhaps, those of Great Britain, whose commerce employs the largest number of vessels.”

Prince Bismarck, in placing on record the importance of the communication thus made, observed that the abandonment

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of Bayazid and of the Valley of Alashkerd, and, above all, the constitution of Batoum as a free port, formed considerable modifications of the Treaty of San Stefano (**No. 518**), and added that the last concession facilitated the evacuation of Batoum and the exchange of it for Erzeroum.

Lord Beaconsfield would have preferred that Batoum, in becoming a free port, were not comprised in Russian territory. Full of confidence in the declarations of the Emperor of Russia, Lord Beaconsfield saw, undoubtedly, in the advantages of the freedom of this port, a compensation for an annexation which he was unable to approve; but he could not avoid saying that it was painful to think that, while fully congratulating himself on the creation of a free port, there were grounds at the same time for anxiety as to the means of preventing, or at least of diminishing, fresh disorders.

Count Andrassy heard with satisfaction the declarations of Prince Gortchakoff, and he believed that the constitution of Batoum as a free port was an evident advantage for all European Powers.

The Congress having passed to the question of the Straits, Lord Salisbury declared that if the acquisition of Batoum had been maintained under conditions menacing to the liberty of the Black Sea, England could not have taken the engagement towards the other European Powers to interdict to herself the entry of that sea. But Batoum having been declared a free and commercial port, the English Government would not decline to renew their engagements under the modifications imposed by the decisions already taken at the Congress* (**No. 528**).

After a discussion as to the character of the *status quo ante* in the Straits, Count Schouvaloff stated that, in his opinion, the Congress had not on this point to discuss the Acts of 1856 (**No. 265**) and 1871 (**No. 439**). What did Russia demand? She demanded solely the *status quo ante* for the Straits. Lord Salisbury made the *status quo* dependent on the conditions of the possession of Batoum by Russia. It would be very easy to prove that Batoum constituted a menace for no one, and that the possession of that port was only necessary to Russia for the purpose of securing her communications with the large territory which she already possessed on that portion of the coast of the Black Sea, and of securing her commerce. The

* See pages 2750, 2752.

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declaration of the freedom of the port must have removed the last doubts. The port would become an important point for the commerce of the whole world; it could not be a menace for the Straits, and everything counselled, consequently, that the *status quo* should be maintained there.

Lord Salisbury then, on the understanding that Batoum was to be only a commercial port, accepted in principle the *status quo ante* for the Straits.

Resuming my observations, I contended that to say Russia could free herself from this engagement on the ground that it was a spontaneous declaration of the late Emperor's was not a valid argument. In the first place, if we were not to consider the declarations of the Emperor as binding, where were we to find, in Russia, the Government and the authority whose declarations could be considered as valid? In the second place, it was to be remarked that, as the Protocol clearly showed, the Emperor's declaration with regard to Batoum was in the nature of a solemn contract between His Imperial Majesty and the other Powers, and in no sense a free gift of his own unaccompanied by other stipulations.

I did not think it necessary to call his Excellency's attention to the Annex of Protocol No. 1 of the Black Sea Conference, which was signed in London the 17th January, 1871 (No. 433). But familiar as that document is, I cannot close this despatch without repeating its terms to your Excellency:—

“The Plenipotentiaries of North Germany, of Austria-Hungary, of Great Britain, of Italy, of Russia, and of Turkey, assembled to-day in Conference, recognize that it is an essential principle of the law of nations that no Power can liberate itself from the engagements of a Treaty, nor modify the stipulations thereof, unless with the consent of the Contracting Powers by means of an amicable arrangement.”

Without this citation, even a *prima facie* review of the Russian note would be obviously incomplete.

RUSSIAN NOTICE REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE DESPATCH.

(Translation.)

THE conditions under which Batoum has been placed since its annexation to Russia, and which are the subject of Article

LIX of the Treaty of Berlin, have created (No. 530), both as regards the town itself and the surrounding region, an abnormal situation, of which the pernicious consequences can no longer fail to awaken the attention and solicitude of the Imperial Government.

The injury done by it to the Exchequer, which is not limited to the bare loss of the duties on the imports consumed at Batoum, but also includes the additional expense of supporting a territorial Customs cordon, and the facilities offered for smuggling has, notwithstanding, in this case only a secondary interest. The very prosperity and the commercial development of Batoum are attacked at their source by the fact of the existence of a Customs cordon at the gates of the town. The State could not extend the limits of the free zone without injuring its Budget by an increase in the expense of supervision, of which the security would become more illusory. Confined and, so to speak, strangled within a narrow area, local commerce is condemned to compulsory stagnation instead of undergoing the progressive expansion which seemed promised by the economic improvement imparted to the country since its annexation to Russia. On the other hand, the commercial or industrial establishments which it has been attempted to found beyond the cordon evidently cannot support the struggle with competitors who have been freed, as regards the admission of their implements, from the payment of Customs duties. Such is especially the case as regards the entrepôts of petroleum. Batoum, being the terminus of the Baku Railway, forms, for that reason, the most natural outlet of a branch of commerce, of which the development is important with a view to the prosperity of our Trans-Caucasian possessions, as well as the necessities of European consumption. But the advantages which Batoum might derive from its position are entirely paralyzed by the unfavourable conditions imposed on that town by its being a free port; and the authorities receive from the petroleum merchants constant complaints as to the difficulties caused by the circumstances in question.

The inconveniences of the isolated situation created at Batoum are not, however, limited to this. Travellers who disembark there on their way by the shortest route to the Caucasus have to undergo, on leaving the town, the formalities and the worry of a custom-house examination. But what is

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much more serious is, that the same precaution being necessarily applied to every one who has occasion to cross the line of the cordon, it has been impossible to avoid the subjection to it of the rural populations of the contiguous districts, who, from time immemorial, have been in the habit of coming to Batoum to get their necessary household goods, dress, shoes, tools, &c. The villagers have to pay the dues on all their purchases, and that in current coin, which is by no means abundant in the country. It so happens besides that they are required to tell whence they had the very objects which they wear, and this does not fail to give rise to frequent and painful disputes. The women are not exempted from a very strict examination, and nothing is more repugnant to the customs of the Mahomedans, who consider every contact of the kind as a sort of sacrilege. Accordingly, petitions, bearing thousands of signatures, have been sent to the administrative authorities in the Caucasus to protest against measures which in their eyes seem odious and vexatious, but which are evidently inseparable from the very existence of a Customs cordon.

In presence of such important circumstances the Imperial Government could not overlook the fact that Article LIX occupies in the Berlin Treaty (**No. 530**) an independent position, for it is not, like the others, the product of a general agreement, but it simply records a free and spontaneous declaration of His Majesty the Emperor Alexander II, of imperishable memory. The advantages which this promise was intended to secure for the other signatory States seem henceforth removed from the question, for, with the suppression of the Caucasus transit, Batoum has lost all its value as an entrepôt for the products formerly exchanged by that route between the European States and Persia, and has preserved only the character of an import harbour. There exist, then, no longer interests abroad in the name of which the Imperial Government can continue to impose a sacrifice so prejudicial to the well-being of a province of the Empire. An experience of eight years has too completely proved the disastrous effects of this entirely voluntary concession to allow the urgency of the need for its withdrawal to be disregarded.

No. 615.—*RUSSIAN UKASE, closing the Free Port of Batoum. 5th July, 1886.*

(Translation.)

ON the union of the Batoum district with the Empire (No. 530), the town of Batoum was given the rights of a free port, in order to form in the south-eastern part of the Black Sea a dépôt for foreign merchandize going to Persia and the Transcaucasian region, and to develop commercial and industrial activity in the Caucasus.

The circumstances under which this measure was taken have greatly changed. With the abolition of the free transit of foreign merchandize through the Caucasus, Batoum lost its importance as the chief mart on the transit route, while the existence of a Customs cordon round the town has proved exceedingly oppressive to the inhabitants of the Batoum district. Cut off, in an artificial manner, from their natural market, in which for ages they used to sell their produce, and to purchase articles of vital necessity, the inhabitants have continually been petitioning the Government for the removal of this abnormal state of things, which is inconsistent with the welfare of the district. Similar petitions have also been sent by the petroleum producers of Baku, whose interests have suffered by the competition of manufactories established within the limits of the free port.

Since we deem it expedient, in consideration of these petitions, now to remove the effect of the Ordinance of December 16, 1880,* respecting the free port of Batoum, we order as follows:—

§ 1. The existing free port in the town of Batoum will be closed from July 5 of this year.

§ 2. Foreign merchandize which may be within the prescribed limits of the free port and in the harbour of Batoum at this date will not be subject to the payment of Customs duties.

§ 3. Local merchants who have in their possession foreign goods, subject to the general orders as to stamping, must present

* See Treaty of Berlin, 13th July, 1878 (No. 530) Art. LIX.

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the same to the Customs authorities before August 5 of this year, for the purpose of affixing the regulation stamps, seals, and bandrols.

§ 4. Goods not so presented for stamping before August 5 will be declared contraband.

§ 5. The Customs control hitherto exercised on the territorial limits of the free port will cease on the expiration of the period mentioned in § III of the present Ukase.

§ 6. It shall be competent for the Director of the Ministry of Finance, during the three months immediately succeeding the closing of the free port, to exempt from Customs duties foreign goods imported into Batoum, and to confer other immunities, in cases where, in his opinion, sufficient grounds exist.

ALEXANDER.

On board the yacht *Zarevna*, in the Archipelago of Finland,
June 23 (July 5), 1886.

[The new port was officially declared to be opened,
^{10th}
_{22nd} December, 1889.]

[Batoum.]

No. 616.—*BRITISH PROTEST against the Notification of the Russian Government of its intention to terminate the Arrangement, embodied in Art. LIX of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), constituting Batoum a Free Port. 13th July, 1886.*

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir R. Morier.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 13, 1886.

ON the 3rd instant the Russian Ambassador read to me a Circular despatch from his Government, announcing the determination of the Emperor of Russia to abrogate the clause of the LIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**) which declares His Majesty's intention to constitute Batoum a free port. It is argued in the Circular and the Memorandum annexed to it that this step is no infraction of the Treaty, as the Article is not an ordinary one, but rests on a spontaneous declaration of the late Emperor.

The Circular further explains that the inconvenience arising from the status of Batoum under the Treaty renders an alteration of that status necessary.

And lastly, it announces that as Batoum would remain essentially a commercial port, the situation would not be changed.

As regards the last point, I need only say that Her Majesty's Government fully appreciate this declaration.

I took the opportunity of at once pointing out to M. de Staal some of the considerations which occurred to me at first sight. These observations I have already recorded in my despatch of the 3rd instant to your Excellency.

But it is necessary, without loss of time, to define the attitude of Her Majesty's Government in face of this proceeding.

In the first place, it must be understood that Her Majesty's Government cannot accept the view that this step on the part of Russia does not constitute an infraction of the Treaty of Berlin, of which, indeed, it obliterates a distinct stipulation. Granting the doctrine which, as far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, is an entirely novel one, that the

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spontaneous declaration of His Majesty the late Emperor is not to be considered as binding because it was spontaneous, it cannot be denied that its embodiment in the Treaty placed it on the same footing as any other part of that instrument. If this be not so, for what reason was it inserted? Had it merely been desired to place an intention on record, the statements in the Protocol were more than sufficient. But there are further circumstances which are conclusive on this point.

I have already cited both to your Excellency and M. de Staal the passages from the Protocols of the Congress of Berlin, which show that Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy on the part of Germany and Austria-Hungary, and Count Schouvaloff on the part of Russia, recognized the action of Russia as "constituting" Batoum a free port, not at the will and pleasure of the Russian Government, but as a definitive act, endorsed by Europe, and international in its character, while the British Plenipotentiaries stated that it was the condition on which they assented to the acquisition of Batoum by Russia. The declaration, accepted in this spirit and on this understanding, was embodied in an integral clause of the Treaty. It is, therefore, impossible to contend that this provision stands on a different footing from the other stipulations of that instrument. This being so, the terms of the Protocol of London of the 17th January, 1871 (**No. 433**), are applicable in all their force. I have already cited to your Excellency, and I need hardly repeat that the Great Powers on that occasion recognized by a solemn act "that it is an essential principle of the law of nations that no Power can liberate itself from the engagements of a Treaty, nor modify the stipulations thereof, unless with the consent of the Contracting Powers by means of an amicable arrangement." That consent Russia does not even seek on the present occasion. But it is scarcely possible that her Government should consider this international act as having become obsolete, for it was appealed to by the Russian Plenipotentiary in the recent Conference at Constantinople. In the seventh sitting of that Conference, on the 25th November last, M. de Nélidoff remarked: "A un point de vue plus général, le maintien du Traité du Berlin était en accord avec les termes du Protocole signé à Londres le 17 Janvier, 1871 (**No. 433**), Protocole qui établit comme un principe essentiel du droit des gens," &c.

"Ce principe nous paraissait particulièrement applicable à la

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situation diplomatique produite par les récents engagements, et aucune Puissance n'ayant exprimé l'intention de s'écarter du Traité de Berlin, nous avons des raisons de croire à son maintien intégral."

To these observations the British Plenipotentiary replied : "Le fait de viser dans la Conference l'un des Articles du Traité ne peut conduire à cette conclusion qu'on désire toucher à la validité du Traité lui-même ; bien au contraire, le Gouvernement Anglais y tient tout autant que les autres Puissances." "Aucune modification au texte d'un Article du Traité de Berlin (No. 530) ne peut évidemment être faite que du consentement unanime des Puissances, et c'est justement le terrain sur lequel le Gouvernement Britannique s'est toujours placé, et sur lequel il se maintient aujourd'hui."

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government cannot recognize any amount of commercial inconvenience as furnishing a justification for a peremptory declaration of the Russian Government, on its whole sole authority, that this portion of the Treaty is to be regarded as no longer valid. The question, from this point of view, is one which concerns all the Powers parties to the Declaration of the 17th January, 1871 (No. 433), and to the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

Apart from the position of Great Britain as one of those Powers, Her Majesty's Government have little or no material interest in the question. As a matter of commerce, it may be remarked that the trade of France with Batoum is much the most considerable, that of Turkey comes next, and that of Great Britain is relatively small. Nor are there any further interests involved which mainly concern this country. Other Powers are no doubt, directly or indirectly, affected by the alteration of the commercial status of Batoum, but Her Majesty's Government do not feel that this is sensibly the case so far as Great Britain is concerned.

One direct, supreme, and perpetual interest, however, is no doubt at stake in this transaction—that of the binding force and sanctity of international engagements. Great Britain is ready, at all times and in all seasons, to uphold that principle, and she cannot palter with it in the present instance.

Her Majesty's Government cannot, therefore, consent to recognize or associate themselves, in any shape or form, with this proceeding of the Russian Government. They are com-

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pelled to place on record their view that it constitutes a violation of the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), unsanctioned by the Signatory Powers, that it tends to make future Conventions of the kind difficult, if not impossible; and to cast doubt at least on those already concluded.

It must be for the other Powers to judge how far they can acquiesce in this breach of an international engagement. But in no case can Her Majesty's Government have any share in it. It must rest upon the sole responsibility of its authors.

Your Excellency will read and give a copy of this despatch to M. de Giers.

I am, &c.,
ROSEBERY.

No. 617.—*RUSSIAN REPLY to the British Protest against the Russian Notification respecting the Free Port of Batoum. 22nd July, 1886.*

M. de Giers to M. de Staal. (Communicated to the Earl of Rosebery by M. de Staal, 27th July, 1886.)

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Petersburg, July 10 (22), 1886.*

THE English Ambassador has handed to me, by direction of his Government, a despatch from Lord Rosebery, of which I annex a copy herewith.

I did not conceal from Sir R. Morier the painful surprise which this communication caused me, and especially the accusation made against a Great Power of violating the faith of Treaties. I repelled it with all the strength of my convictions. When communicating to the Governments a notice which might affect their commerce, the Imperial Cabinet did not consider themselves called upon to enter into any discussion with regard to an administrative and commercial measure of a purely internal character. But I added that, as the Government of Her Britannic Majesty had thought it right to make observations to us, taking their stand on the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), I reserved the right of informing them of our views on the subject after having taken the orders of His Majesty the Emperor.

Be good enough to tell Lord Rosebery that we adhere to our opinion that the spontaneous declaration of the intention of the Emperor to make Batoum a free port did not constitute an obligation, and that, consequently, the modification of that intention, which circumstances require, could not be considered as a departure from engagements which did not exist.

You have already been instructed to put forward this view. I have nothing to add to the judicious observations which you have made on the subject.

It follows that the Protocol of London of 1871 (**No. 433**), appealed to by Lord Rosebery, is in no way applicable to the present case.

As regards the Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**), I will not mention the instances in which it has been violated. I will confine myself to calling attention to the fact that the Imperial

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Cabinet have given sufficient proof of their respect for that Act in so far as it was intended to preserve the peace of the East and of Europe. It is not owing to us that its complete observance, with the support of all the Powers, did not prevent the troubles which have agitated the Peninsula of the Balkans and affected the balance of power there.

You can assure Lord Rosebery that the Imperial Cabinet are still anxious to contribute to the consolidation of the general peace in the hope that the Powers who have fixed and guaranteed its bases will themselves respect them.

You will be good enough to read this despatch to Lord Rosebery, and leave a copy of it with his Excellency.

Receive, &c.,
GIERS.

No. 618.—*ARRANGEMENT between the Government of His Highness the Prince of Montenegro and the Imperial Turkish Legation at Cettingé, respecting the regulation of the question of Emigrants, and their debts or credits. Cettingé, ^{9th}/_{21st} October, 1886.*

(Translation.)

[Approved 26th January, 1888.]

It is agreed :—

That complete liberty shall be accorded to every Mussulman inhabitant of the Principality to emigrate whenever he wishes ;

That Mussulmans who have emigrated, or who wish to emigrate, from Montenegro shall at all times enjoy full liberty as regards the sale of their real property situated in the country, conformably to the Montenegrin Law promulgated by His Highness the Prince ;

That the settlement of debts between Montenegrins and emigrants alone shall be relegated to a Mixed Commission, which shall be composed of two members, Ottoman and Montenegrin, assisted by ten Valuers, half chosen amongst Montenegrins, and half amongst Mussulman emigrants

That this Commission shall take into consideration only the claims presented by the creditors or debtors themselves, or by their Attorneys ;

That emigrants who are creditors shall be treated on the same footing as Montenegrins ;

That the Commission shall, in the first place, call upon the debtors to discharge their debts by taking upon themselves the sale of their real property, and, in the event of the property finding no purchasers at the price that is proposed, it shall proceed to the valuation and division of the property in proportion only to the valuation of the debts ; they (the debtors) shall be able to dispose freely of the rest ;

That in that case the Commission shall replace exclusively that part of the real property in the hands of the creditors ;

That the outstanding revenues from the property in general of those Mussulmans, debtors or non-debtors, who have lawfully

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emigrated shall be collected by the Commission, which shall take care to apply those of the first category to the settlement of their debts, and to remit to the applicants of the second category their share of revenue;

That interest on debts anterior to the occupation shall be settled up to that date conformably to the Ottoman laws, and that creditors shall only have the right to demand interest after 3 years, from the date of the occupation of the ceded territory;

That in accordance with Article XXX of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530) emigrants, either themselves or their Attorneys, shall be at liberty to farm out their real property situated in Montenegro;

That new settlers shall be treated the same as old ones as long as they fulfil their engagements with the proprietors of the lands which they cultivate;

That a period of one year from the date of the present Arrangement shall be accorded to creditors and debtors to enable them to present themselves before the Commission, or to delegate their Attorneys to do so;

And, that the Agreements of Vir-Bazar, arrived at on the 21st January, 1879*, of Touzi, of the 6th September, 1883 (No. 603), as also the Arrangement of Cettingé, of the 1st December, 1884 (No. 605), remain and continue valid, with the exception of the part relating to the debts of emigrants.

Done in duplicate at Cettingé, the $\frac{9^{\text{th}}}{21^{\text{st}}}$ of October, 1886.

For Turkey:

A. DJÉVAD.

For Montenegro:

S. RADOWITZ.

The two Governments not having given their approval to the present Arrangement until the month of January, 1888, the period of one year accorded to debtors and creditors to enable them to present themselves before the Mixed Commission shall be reckoned as commencing from the date of the formation of the said Commission.

Cettingé, the $\frac{8}{20}^{\text{th}}$ of January, 1888.

A. DJÉVAD.
S. RADOWITZ.

* See note p. 2894.

No. 619.—*ARRANGEMENT between Servia and Bulgaria, for the settlement, by a Mixed Commission, of the questions respecting the Disputed Territory near Bregovo, &c. Signed at Nisch, 25th October, 1886.*

ART.

TABLE.

1. Disputed Territory near *Bregovo*.
2. Commercial Relations. *A Servo-Bulgarian Commission* to be appointed.
3. Political Emigrants on the Frontier.
4. *Vakarel-Sofia-Tzaribrod Railway*. Execution of Arrangement.

(Translation.)

THE Government of His Majesty the King of Servia having readily accepted the proposal of the Government of the Principality of Bulgaria respecting the re-establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries, and having thereby given proof of its disposition to renew relations of friendship and good neighbourship, the following Arrangement has been signed between—

Colonel D. Franassovitch, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Servia, in the name of the Kingdom, on the one side, and

Dr. G. Stransky, Bulgarian Diplomatic Agent, who has been charged for the above purpose as Plenipotentiary of the Regents of the Principality of Bulgaria, on the other.

Disputed Territory near Bregovo. A Servo-Bulgarian Commission to be appointed.

ART. I. The Government of the Principality of Bulgaria, regretting the Bregovo incident,* which shook the relations of friendship between two neighbouring States, will evacuate the disputed territory opposite to that village, immediately after

* In 1884, differences arose between Bulgaria and Servia with reference to the right of possession to certain territory opposite to the village of Bregovo. The question was considered by the Representatives of Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia, who recommended the cession of the place to Bulgaria in return for other territory or a money compensation. (See also note, p. 3191.)

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the signature of this document. The disputed territory will be declared neutral until a special Servo-Bulgarian Commission, which will be specially appointed for this purpose, shall have definitely settled this question.

Should the Commission allot the disputed territory to Servia, the Royal Government consents, in principle, to cede it to Bulgaria in return for a corresponding piece of territory elsewhere on the frontier.*

Commercial Relations.

ART. II. In order to ensure the mutual development of both countries in economical interests, and to strengthen still further the bonds which link them together, the two Contracting Parties bind themselves to appoint, within two months time, a mixed Commission to investigate the Commercial relations of the two States. Within a further period of six months a Commercial Treaty between the Kingdom of Servia and the Principality of Bulgaria will have to be concluded, which must be in accordance with the legal prescriptions of both States.

Pending the conclusion of this Treaty, the Contracting Parties bind themselves to render to each other, mutually, all possible facilities for the benefit of the Commercial interests of the two countries.

Political Emigrants on the Frontier.

ART. III. The Government of the Principality of Bulgaria binds itself to forbid the Servian political emigrants to reside within a zone of 60 kilomètres along the Servian frontier, and to stop any action on their part which might tend to disturb order and peace in the Kingdom of Servia. The Royal Government, on its side, accepts a like obligation respecting Bulgarian political emigrants who may be found in the Kingdom.

Vakarel-Sofia-Tzaribrod Railway.

ART. IV. The Government of the Principality of Bulgaria binds itself to use all its efforts in order that the Vakarel-Sofia-Tzaribrod Railway line be constructed as far as may be possible within the same time as the Piroet-Nisch line.

* See Protocol of 16th December, 1886 (No. 620), and Act of 30th March, 1887 (No. 620).

[Bregovo.]

Execution of Arrangement.

This Arrangement shall come into force immediately after it has been signed.

In witness whereof, the undersigned have signed it, and have affixed thereto their seals.

Executed, in duplicate, at Nisch, the $\frac{13}{5}$ th of October, 1886.

(L.S.) D. FRANASSOVITCH,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Kingdom of Servia, Colonel.

(L.S.) DR. STRANSKY,
Diplomatic Agent of the Princi-
pality of Bulgaria.

[See note to No. 620.]

[Bregovo.]

No. 620.—*ACT signed by the Governments of Bulgaria and Serbia, confirming the Decision, of 16th December, 1886, of the Commission appointed for the Settlement of the Bregovo Question. Signed at Sofia, 30th March, 1887.*

(Translation.)

THE Servo-Bulgarian Commission, appointed in accordance with Article I of the Arrangement dated $\frac{1}{2}$ ³/₃th October, 1886, for the purpose of settling the question of Bregovo (No. 619), having, at its sitting of the 16th December, 1886, agreed "that the meadow (*prairie*) of Bregovo in dispute shall form an integral part of the Kingdom of Serbia, and that the ancient bed of the Timok between the said meadow and the Bulgarian village of Bregovo was the political frontier between the Kingdom of Serbia and the Principality of Bulgaria," the Undersigned, duly authorised for that purpose, confirm by these presents the said Decision of the Commission, and declare that they accept it in the name of their respective Governments, without prejudice to the other engagements equally stipulated for in the above-mentioned Article.

In faith of which the Undersigned have affixed to the present Act their signatures and the seal of their Chanceries.

Done in duplicate at Sofia the 30th March, 1887.

(L.S.) R. DANITCH.

(L.S.) G. D. NATCHOVITCH.

[M. Danitch was Servian Diplomatic Agent at Sofia, and M. Natchovitch the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs.]

NOTE.—The Occupation by Bulgaria of the frontier post at Bregovo was one of the causes which led to the War between Serbia and Bulgaria in November, 1885. In June, 1884, Diplomatic Relations were suspended between the two States, arising out of the following causes:—1. The colonization of Servian emigrants upon the frontier of the two countries, aggravated by the agitations of certain chiefs of the former revolution, who had chosen the capital of Bulgaria as a centre most favourable to their plots. 2. The occupation of a frontier post at Bregovo by an armed Bulgarian force, without following the course universally adopted in analogous cases of litigation between neighbouring and friendly countries; and, 3, The disputed political ownership of the said frontier post (near the village of Bregovo). The claim of Serbia to the *prairie* of Bregovo was based on the

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fact that, by the Hatti-chériff of December, 1833 (No. 169, vol. ii, p. 929), which was addressed by the Sultan Mahmoud II to Prince Milsch Obrenowitz, the Ottoman Porte ceded to Serbia certain districts (*contrées*), and among them that of "Kraina, including Klionte," in which district the *prairie* of Bregovo was situated, whilst in the instructions which were at that time given to the Ottoman Boundary Commissioner, he was told that the new frontier would leave the mouth of the Timok, and follow the left bank of the river as far as Vrajogrutzé. Some time later, the River Timok changed its course in this neighbourhood, and formed a new bed to the left of the former one, when the Servian Government proceeded to establish a frontier post on the left bank of the former bed of the Timok. The change which took place in the bed of the river is shown on the map facing page 3190. The Treaty of Berlin of 13th July, 1878 (No. 530), Arts. 2 and 36, described the new boundaries to be assigned to Serbia at this point as following the crest of the Balkans, by Cipronec Balkan and Stara Planina up to the old eastern frontier (*l'ancienne frontière orientale*); and the European Boundary Commissioners in their Act of the 19th August, 1879 (No. 551), also declared (§ 10) that from the height Ivanova Livada, as far as the Danube, the territory of the Principality of Serbia was marked by the old (*l'ancienne*) frontier. But on the 3rd June, 1884, the right of Serbia to this territory was disputed by Bulgaria, and the frontier post of Bregovo was occupied by Bulgarian troops, when the Servian picket, consisting of four men, retired to the left bank of the Timok. Satisfaction was demanded by Serbia from Bulgaria, not only with regard to the frontier position, but also with regard to the Servian emigrants above alluded to, but the Bulgarians refused to satisfy the Servian demands. The Servian Diplomatic Agent was in consequence withdrawn from Bulgaria, and diplomatic relations suspended. The Austro-Hungarian, German, and Russian Cabinets then offered their good offices to bring about a reconciliation, which was accepted; but it led to no result. On the 14th November, 1885 (No. 607), War was declared by Serbia against Bulgaria, one of the causes of which was stated to be the forcible and unlawful seizure of the district of Bregovo by the Bulgarians. On the 3rd March, 1886, a Treaty of Peace was concluded between Bulgaria and Serbia (No. 610). On the 25th October, 1886, an arrangement was come to between Bulgaria and Serbia (No. 619) for the settlement of the question of the disputed territory by a Mixed Commission. On the 16th December, 1886, the Mixed Commission pronounced its decision (No. 620), which was confirmed on the 30th March, 1887 (No. 620), by an Act signed between the Bulgarian and Servian Governments. On the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ July, 1888, the Servo-Bulgarian Commission, which had been charged to regulate the conditions upon which the Bregovo and Balei Lands should be exchanged between Bulgaria and Serbia, made their report (No. 625); and on the $\frac{19th}{31st}$ December, 1888, an Act was signed between the Bulgarian and Servian Governments for the mutual exchange of the disputed territories of Bregovo and Balei (Baleyska), the former being ceded by Serbia to Bulgaria, and the latter by Bulgaria to Serbia (No. 625). See map facing p. 3190.

No. 621.—*AGREEMENT between Turkey and Montenegro for the Settlement of the Boundary Dispute in the District of Vaganitza, and on the Spurs of Mokra Planina.* Cettingé, July, 1887.*

[In July, 1887, an Agreement was entered into at Cettingé between M. Radowich, on the part of Montenegro, and Djévad Pacha, on the part of Turkey (subject to the approval of the Porte), to the following effect:—that the district of Vaganitza was recognized as belonging to Montenegro; that the claim put forward by Djévad Pacha respecting the Spurs of the Mokra Planina was abandoned†; that the rights and property of individuals, whether Ottoman or Montenegrin subjects on either side of the frontier, should be respected, and that the Commission should settle the limits within which such rights were to hold good.]

The question of pasture rights of Montenegrin subjects was also settled shortly afterwards; but, during the years 1888 and 1889, constant raids and outrages took place on the Montenegrin frontier, and the question of lands owned by Montenegrins at Mikochich was eventually settled by a mixed Commission in December, 1889. The long-standing dispute respecting rights of pasturage between the Montenegrins at Secular and the Albanians of Rugova has also been settled since the latter date.]

* See map facing p. 3140.

† The Treaty of Berlin (**No. 530**) said (Art. 28). "The new frontier passes along the crests of the Mokra Planina, the village of Mokra remaining to Montenegro."

No. 622.—*PROCLAMATION of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe Coburg to the Bulgarians on assuming the Government of the Country. 14th August, 1887.**

(Translation.)

To the Bulgarian Nation.

WE, Ferdinand I., by the grace of God and the national will, Prince of Bulgaria,

After having taken the oath before the Great National Assembly in the ancient capital, we do hereby proclaim to our beloved free people that we take into our hands the reins of government of this country, which we will govern in conformity to its fundamental law, and to whose prosperity, greatness, and glory we will devote our efforts, while we shall be ever ready to sacrifice our life for its good. On mounting the throne of the glorious Bulgarian Kings, we consider it our sacred duty to express our sincere gratitude to the noble Bulgarian nation both for the confidence it has shown in our election as Bulgarian Prince and for its wise and patriotic conduct in the troubled and trying times which our country is going through. The heroic efforts which the nation has made in defence of its independence, honour, and interests, have won for it the sympathies of the whole civilized world, and inculcated a general belief in its vital force, and that it deserves a better and brighter future.

At the same time we thank the Regents and their Government for their wise and successful conduct of affairs, whereby they were able to defend our country's independence and liberty in the most critical times.

Fully convinced that the nation and its gallant Army will

* On the 12th August, 1887, the following Manifesto was issued by Prince Ferdinand to the Bulgarian people from Widdin: "Unanimously elected by the representatives of the Bulgarian people as their Sovereign, I have considered it a sacred duty to set foot at the earliest possible moment in my new country in order to devote my life to the happiness, greatness, and progress of my loving people. I thank the brave Bulgarian people from the bottom of my heart for the confidence they have reposed in me, and for the sentiments of loyalty and faith they cherish towards me. I am fully convinced that they will support me in my efforts and endeavours to realize a glorious and happy future. May the Almighty defend Bulgaria and assist us in all worthy undertakings."

[Proclamation of Prince Ferdinand.]

rally round our throne and support us in our endeavours for the good of the country, we invoke God's blessing on all our acts and undertakings.

Long live free and independent Bulgaria!

FERDINAND I.

Given at the old Bulgarian capital of Great Tirnova, this
^{2nd}
14th of August, 1887.

[On the same day (14th August, 1887) the Prince attended the Sobranje, took the oath, and signed the Constitution.

On the 16th August the Turkish Ambassador communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury a copy of a despatch on this subject, which had been addressed by Saïd Pasha to Rustem Pasha, on the 14th of that month, and which is given in the Appendix, p. 3278. See Parliamentary Paper, "Turkey, No 1 (1888)."]

No. 623.—*RESOLUTION of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, for the settlement of the Eastern Roumelian Tribute Question. Sofia, 3rd November, 1887.*

[Accepted by the National Assembly of Bulgaria.]

(Translation.)

Resolution of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers for the Settlement of the Eastern Roumelian Tribute Question. 3rd November, 1887.

1. THE arrears due on account of Tribute to the 1st of September, 1885, will be paid in accordance with the statement and upon the lines of the Resolution of the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia of the $\frac{8}{20}$ th December, 1882 (No. 596), viz., upon the basis of £T.185,000 a year, including the amount of the Customs revenues,* say a total of 17,729,258 gold piastres.

NOTE.—A deduction will be made if it is found that any part of the above-mentioned amount has been paid.

2. From the 1st of September, 1885, up to the present time, and for the future, unless a new disposition shall be made, the arrears owing by Eastern Roumelia to the Sublime Porte are determined on a basis of $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of the net Revenue of that Province, ascertained from the amended Budgets for the period between 1879 and the 1st of March, 1885 (deducting the revenues due by the villages of the district of Kirdjali and of the Rhodope ceded to Turkey (No. 611), and which amount to £T.130,000, in which is included the sum for the payment of the Customs revenues.*

3. The payment of the arrears up to the 1st of September, 1885, and from that date to the 31st of December, 1887, shall be effected by amortization (without interest) at the rate of 500,000 fr. a year.

4. The mode and times of payment of the amortization, as well as of the annual debt, shall be fixed by the Ministry of Finance with the approval of the Council of Ministers.

* £T.5,000, see p. 3095.

[Eastern Roumelian Tribute.]

5. The present Resolution shall be put to the vote in the National Assembly.

[This Tribute was originally fixed by the Organic Statute of 26th April, 1879, at £T.240,000, which represented three-tenths of the then estimated provincial revenues (No. 546). On the 20th December, 1882, the Provincial Assembly lowered the amount to £T.180,000, plus £T.5,000 on account of customs revenues, on the ground that the revenues had decreased (No. 596). On the 3rd November, 1887, the Bulgarian Government declared that three-tenths of the income of Eastern Roumelia amounted only to £T.130,000, plus £T.5,000, which sum the Porte agreed to accept, provided the payment of the tribute were begun at once. The Bulgarian Government, however answered that the Treasury was not in a condition to make any immediate payment.]

No. 624.—*EXCHANGE OF NOTES between the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the measures taken by the Porte for payment of the Russian War Indemnity and the accumulated deficit. 17th–27th November, 1888.*

[See Convention, 14th May, 1882 (No. 592).]

(Translation.)

Constantinople, $\frac{5}{17}$ th November, 1888.

Excellency,—I considered it my duty to transmit to my Government your Excellency's Note, dated 22nd July, 1888, in which you kindly informed me of the measures taken by the Sublime Porte with a view to paying the War Indemnity and the accumulated deficit.

The Imperial Government cannot give a preliminary opinion on the practical value of these new measures. It will be able to judge them only from their result. At all events, the examples of past times are not of a nature to inspire absolute confidence in the efficacy of the recently decreed measures. That the Imperial Government may be in a position to judge of their scope by following and observing their application, the Minister of Imperial Finances considers it indispensable :

1. That the Sublime Porte furnish the Imperial Embassy with complete and precise data on the terms of the contracts made with the farmers of the tithes (whose obligations, according to your Excellency's said Note, are to be fulfilled to the Banque Ottomane), on the account, the nature, and the place of deposit of the securities given by the said farmers of the tithes for their engagements, and on the means of enforcing strict execution in case of omission on their part.

2. That it indicate to the Embassy the precise term of the instalments to be made by the farmers of the above-mentioned tithes, and placed at the disposal of the Banque for the next payment.

3. That the Sublime Porte also indicate the exact term of the first "annual" instalment of £T.100,000 destined for paying off the deficit, and to accompany this communication with the above-mentioned data concerning the guarantees of the contracts representing the tithes in the vilayets of Aleppo and Mamouret-

[War Indemnity.]

ul-Aziz, from which this sum is to be deducted. It is not superfluous to remark here that £T.75,000 of these £T.100,000 are to be furnished by the tithes of the vilayet of Aleppo, the administration of which is one of the least exact in paying its ground rents for the indemnity, in spite of the well-known wealth of the country. Thus only £3,230, instead of the £40,000 stipulated, have been paid from the sheep-tax in the general revenues of that province, and of those of Adana, Castamouni, Konieh, and Sivas has already been assigned by order of the $\frac{4}{16}$ th of August, 1884, for the annual instalments of the War Indemnity, owing to the well-known insufficiency of the preceding assignments. To judge from the payments of the last four years, it is difficult confidently to expect that the remaining free half of the tithes of Aleppo can really amount to the £75,000 wished for.

4. That the Sublime Porte kindly communicate to the Imperial Embassy the text of the "strictest orders given to the provincial authorities constantly to enforce the punctuality of these payments, and their priority to all others," in order that the Embassy may be in a position to know exactly how far it may rely in its dealings with the Ottoman Government on the "responsibility of the Governors-General," under which, according to the said Note of your Excellency, the payment of the War Indemnity has been placed.

I shall await with just impatience the answers requested in regard to the above points, and I have the pleasure, in conclusion, to express the hope that they will be of a nature to reassure the Imperial Government, and that they will be confirmed by facts.

I remain, &c.,

NÉLIDOFF.

H.E. Saïd Pasha, &c.

(Translation.)

Constantinople, 20th November, 1888.

Excellency,—I have had the honour to receive the Note which your Excellency has kindly addressed to me, dated 4th of October, concerning the War Indemnity.

The last measures adopted by the Imperial Government are already producing their effect.

[War Indemnity.]

The bons of the tithes handed to the branch offices of the Banque Impériale Ottomane for payment of the annuity now due, and of the £T.100,000 of arrears to be paid in this year, amount to £349,596. Other bons, amounting to £61,646, are deposited in the hands of the Imperial authorities at Mamouret-ul-Aziz and at Boli, where there are no correspondents of the Banque Ottomane. In proportion to the payments of their counter-value, the latter will be paid to the said Banque.

The sum of £38,000 and odd, which remains to make up the amount to be paid, is equally secured, and all arrangements are made for the payment of the stipulated annuity in full.

Your Excellency can be persuaded that the Minister of Finance will rigorously see to this.

I remain, &c.,

SAÏD.

H.E. M. de Nélidoff, &c.

(Translation.)

Pera, $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{5}{7}$ th November, 1888.

Excellency,—I have had the honour to receive your Excellency's Note, dated 20th of November, referring to the War Indemnity, and answering mine of ^{22nd September}_{4th October}.

It seems to have been signed before your Excellency had taken cognizance of my Note of $\frac{5}{17}$ th instant.

The answers which your Excellency will please to give to the four points of this Note will constitute a natural and necessary corollary to the data that you have kindly communicated to me, on the sending of the bons of the tithes to the branch offices of the Banque Ottomane (the amount of which bons is nearly equal to an annuity), as well as on the other bons, amounting to £61,646 of the £100,000 which are to form the first annual payment destined to pay off the deficit, which bons are deposited in the hands of the Imperial authorities at Mamouret-ul-Aziz, and at Boli. Meantime I gladly take note of the repeated assurance that "all the arrangements are made for the payment of the stipulated annuity in full," and I flatter myself with the hope that, in conformity with the assurances so often renewed by the Sublime Porte, these arrangements will

[War Indemnity.]

be once for all applied in the same measure and with the same energy to the payment of the Indemnity in future.

At all events your Excellency yourself admits that “£38,000 and odd, to make up the amount to be paid,” remains uncovered. Apart from this the realization of the seneds of the dimiers, as your Excellency certainly does not ignore, is only progressive, and spread over six months, so that the total of the sums mentioned can be cashed only in next March, provided that all of them are paid in full and on the fixed dates, only £46,016 having been cashed for the account of the current payment by $\frac{1st}{13th}$ November last, a new considerable deficit for the two remaining months of 1888 can be foreseen, at any rate, although the deficit of 1887 attained the enormous amount of £172,171.

In view of this unpromising prospect I foresaw, in my Note of $\frac{22nd\ September}{4th\ October}$, the necessity of sacrificing a part of the produce of the last Loan to the Russian Debt prior to all later engagements. I, therefore, can only renew my demand in regard to this subject; and this all the more as, if a new deficit should appear at the end of this year without the Ottoman Government's employing the liquid resources at its disposal to prevent such a deficit, the confidence of the Imperial Cabinet in the sincerity of the wish of the Sublime Porte to pay this Debt would be severely shaken.

I remain, &c.,

NÉLIDOFF.

H.E. Saïd Pasha, &c.

[From 1883 to 1888 inclusive the arrears amounted to £T.854,166·73. To settle this, the Porte paid, from the Hirsch payment, £243,902·43, and from the Revenues assigned to Russia, £173,059·07, amounting together to £T.416,961·50. It has since been arranged that this deficit shall be paid off by adding £T.100,000 a year until it is extinguished, so that until this is effected, the annuity to be paid by Turkey to Russia is to amount to £T.450,000 instead of £350,000.]

No. 625.—*DECISION of Servo-Bulgarian Commissioners, as to the exchange of the Bregovo and Balei Lands, (1st 13th July, 1888); and Ratification of the same by the Servian and Bulgarian Governments. Sofia, 19th 31st December, 1888.*

TABLE.

1. Cession by *Servia* to *Bulgaria* of *Bregovo* Meadow.
2. Cession by *Bulgaria* to *Servia* of *Balei* Meadow.
3. River *Timok* recognized as forming Political Frontier between *Bulgaria* and *Servia*.
4. Indemnification of Proprietors of Lands.
5. Approval of *Servian* and *Bulgarian* Governments to be signified.

(Translation.)

THE Servo-Bulgarian Commission charged with the arrangement of the conditions of the exchange of the lands of Bregovo and Balei situated between Bulgaria and Servia having drawn up and signed at Négotine on the 1st 13th July, 1888, the Act the tenor of which is as follows :—

“Whereas the Servo-Bulgarian Commission, at its sitting of the 16th December, 1886 (**No. 620**), decided that the meadow of Bregovo in dispute, which is actually situated on the right bank of the Timok, is the property and forms part of the Kingdom of Servia; and whereas in the sitting of the 30th of June, 1888, it also decided that the meadow of Balei in dispute, which is actually situated on the left bank of the Timok, is the property and forms part of the Principality of Bulgaria, the Servian and Bulgarian Commissioners have agreed upon the exchange of those lands, as follows :—

“I. The Kingdom of Servia cedes to the Principality of Bulgaria the meadow of Bregovo, situated on the right bank of the Timok.

“II. In exchange, the Principality of Bulgaria cedes to the Kingdom of Servia the meadow of Balei situated on the left bank of the Timok.

“III. The actual course of the Timok, near Bregovo and Balei, is the political frontier between the Kingdom of Servia and the Principality of Bulgaria.

“IV. The Royal Government of Servia engages to indemnify

ROUGH SKETCH

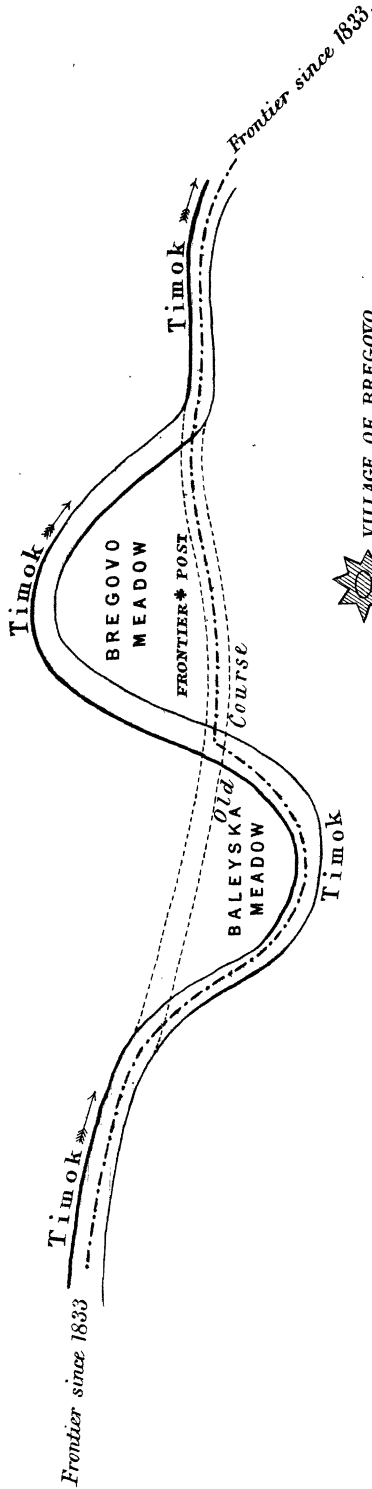
of the

RIVER TIMOK

near the

FRONTIER POST OF BREGOVO.

S E R V I A



B U L G A R I A

* The above Frontier Post and Bregovo Meadow was held by the Servians from 1833, till June 1834 at which latter date the population of the Bulgarian Village of Bregovo owned and cultivated the Baleyaska Meadow; while Bregovo Meadow was Servian Government Property, let annually to the highest bidder.

SKETCH MAP
of the
RIVER TIMOK
near the
FRONTIER POST OF BREGOVO.

[Bregovo and Balei Lands.]

all those proprietors who possess lands situated near the meadow of Bregovo.

“The Princely Government of Bulgaria undertakes the same engagement as regards the proprietors of lands near the meadow of Balei.

“Consequently those lands become exclusively the property of the States to which they have respectively been ceded, without the existence of any private rights of proprietorship whatsoever, and without interference of third parties in those lands.

“V. This understanding becomes obligatory upon the approval of the Royal Government of Servia, and of the Princely Government of Bulgaria.”

The Undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, confirm this Act, and declare their acceptance of it in the name of their respective Governments; the present Act must nevertheless be ratified by the National Assemblies of Bulgaria and Servia.*

In faith of which the Undersigned have signed the present Act and have sealed it with the seal of their Chancelleries.

Done in duplicate at Sofia, the 19th (31st) day of December, 1888.

(L.S.) R. DANITCH,

Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of Servia.

(L.S.) Dr. STRANSKY,

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Bulgaria.

* The Ratifications were exchanged at Sofia on the 4th January, 1889.

FIRMAN of the Sultan, modifying the Firmans for the government of the Island of Crete. 22nd November, 1889.

[See Appendix, p. 3281.]

PROVISIONAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS between certain European Powers and Bulgaria. November, 1889-October, 1890.

[See Appendix, p. 3288.]

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CONVENTION between Greece and Turkey, respecting the Suppression of Brigandage. Signed at Canlidgia, $\frac{8}{20}$ th April, 1856.

[Referred to in ART. XII of Convention of 24th May, 1881, respecting the Turco-Greek Frontier, **No. 584.**]

ART.

TABLE.

Preamble.

1. Pursuit and Apprehension of Brigands.
2. Trial, &c., of Brigands.
3. Employment of Troops.
4. Meetings of Officers of the two States.
5. Crossing of the Frontier by Troops.
6. Army Deserters.
7. Duration of Convention.
8. Ratifications.

(Translation.)*

HIS Majesty the King of Greece, on the one part, and His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, on the other, animated with the sincere desire of strengthening public order and security in the frontier provinces of their States, and considering that nothing will contribute more to the accomplishment of their mutual wishes in this respect than the conclusion of a Convention having for its object the suppression of brigandage by means of efficacious measures drawn up in agreement for that purpose, have furnished, to that effect, their full powers for the conclusion and signature of this Convention.

His Majesty the King of Greece, Otho I, le Sieur André G. Countouriotis, His Minister Resident at the Sublime Ottoman Porte, &c. ;

And His Imperial Majesty the Sultan Abdul Medjid Khan,

* For French version, see "State Papers," vol. lvi, p. 1389.

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His Excellence Mehemet Fuad Pacha, His Minister for Foreign Affairs, &c.; who, after having communicated to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

Pursuit and Apprehension of Brigands.

ART. I. The two High Contracting Parties bind themselves not to allow the formation or continuation in their respective territories of armed bands having for their object the exercise of brigandage whether in the one or in the other State, and to employ all their efforts to pursue and apprehend, each in its own territory, those brigands who, coming from the other State, shall pass the frontier.

Trial, &c., of Brigands.

ART. II. The individuals arrested or seized in the territory of one of the two States, who, after the publication of the present Convention, shall have belonged to a band having for its object the exercise of brigandage in the other State, or who shall have attempted or executed acts of brigandage in that State, shall be pursued in the same manner and submitted to the same penal conditions as if the acts of which they are guilty had been directed against the State in which the arrest took place.

In the above-mentioned cases, if the accused are subjects of the other State, the examination and sentence of their trials shall take place in conformity with the dispositions of the last paragraph of Article XXIV of the Treaty concluded at Canlidgia on the 27th May, 1855, the 24th of the month of Ramazan, 1271, between the Kingdom of Greece and the Ottoman Empire. (See Annex, p. 3213.)

If, in consequence of acts of brigandage committed in one of the two States, a civil action should take place, it shall be brought before the Tribunals of the State in which the arrest has been effected.

Employment of Troops.

ART. III. The two High Contracting Parties mutually agree to employ, each on its own side, regular troops for the guarding of their frontiers and the prosecution of brigandage in their frontier provinces. The troops of each State shall be in sufficient force and shall be placed under the orders of a superior

officer, who shall keep up an active prosecution of brigandage in the full extent of his district.

Meetings of Officers of the two States.

ART. IV. The two Commanders-in-chief shall meet whenever it may be considered necessary at an agreed point on the frontier line, in order to mutually communicate to each other the written orders and instructions with which they may happen to be furnished by their respective Governments, and to come to an understanding upon all details respecting the accomplishment of the important task confided to them, viz.: on the establishment of different stations along the frontiers; on the force necessary for the service of each of these stations; on the most convenient placing of subaltern officers; on the formation and movements of patrols; and, indeed, on any other subject belonging to the service with which they are charged.

Likewise, the officers of one of the two States in command of a station, a post, or a pursuing detachment, shall correspond directly and without delay with the officers of the other, in order to reciprocally communicate the warnings or information they may have as regards the number of the brigands, the place where they may be found, the direction which they have taken; in a word, they will come to an understanding upon all details concerning the success of their service.

For this purpose a system of communication either by signals or by any other means shall be adopted.

Crossing of the Frontier by Troops.

ART. V. If a pursuing detachment following the track of brigands shall reach the frontier-line it shall be able to continue to give them chase until it shall fall in with a detachment of the other State. It will then cease its pursuit, after having indicated to the latter the direction of the brigands, unless its assistance shall be asked by the officer commanding the detachment, in which case it shall be bound to give him its entire support.

When the officer shall not have asked this assistance, he shall be held to inform the officer commanding the other detachment of the result of the later pursuit.

In no case, however, and under no pretext, shall the troops

APPENDIX.

or detachments of either of the two States enter into the cities, towns, or villages of the other.

Army Deserters.

ART. VI. Deserters from the army of either of the two States presenting themselves or taking refuge in the other shall not, in any case, be received.

They shall, on the contrary, be compelled to leave the territory, and shall be warned that, if ever they happen to be discovered stopping clandestinely in that one of the two States from which they shall have been sent, they will be arrested and given up.

Duration of Convention.

ART. VII. The present Convention shall remain in force for six years from the date of the exchange of the ratifications, and if, one year, or six months at least, either of the High Contracting Parties shall not have announced to the other by an official notification its intention to terminate it, the Convention shall remain binding one year for one year from then, and so on, until the expiration of 12 months, which shall follow a similar notification at whatever time it may take place.

Ratifications.

ART. VIII. The present Convention shall be ratified by His Majesty the King of Greece and by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Constantinople within a period of six weeks, or sooner, if possible. In faith of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it and affixed thereto their seals.

Done at Canlidgia, the $\frac{8}{20}$ th April, 1856 (15 Chaban, 1272).

(L.S.) CONDOURIOTIS.

(L.S.) FUAD.

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ANNEX.

EXTRACT from Treaty between Turkey and Greece, of 27th May, 1855.

[Referred to in ART. II of the preceding Convention of 20th April, 1856.]

(Translation.)

ART. XXIV. The Ministers and other Diplomatic Agents, as also the Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents of the two Contracting Powers, shall enjoy in the States of the other the same honours, immunities, privileges, and protection as those of the most-favoured nation.

They shall exercise an equal right of supervision over persons of their own nation, and the latter shall have free recourse in their actions and differences to the jurisdiction of their Consular authorities, who shall deal exclusively with them in civil and commercial matters.

The differences and actions in civil and commercial matters which may arise in Greece between the subjects of the two Powers, or even between Ottoman subjects and foreigners, and, *vice versa*, the differences and actions in civil and commercial matters which may arise in Turkey between the subjects of the two Powers, or even between Hellenic subjects and foreigners, shall be tried, in either country, according to the principles, laws, and regulations which are there in force in regard to the most-favoured nation.

It is also understood that the prosecution, trial, and punishment of crimes, offences, and other punishable actions, which shall be committed by the subjects of one of the two Contracting Parties in the territory of the other, shall take place in conformity with the principles, laws, and regulations which are and shall be in force in the respective States in regard to the most-favoured nation.

*ADDITIONAL ACT between France and Spain, sanctioning the International Regulations for the Exercise of Fishery and various arrangements relative to the Bidassoa. Concluded at Bayonne, 31st March, 1859.**

ART.

TABLE.

Preamble.

I.—*Fishery Regulations for the Bidassoa, drawn up 1st June, 1858, in the Isle of Faisans, between the Delegates of the French and Spanish Riverain Municipalities.*

Right of Fishery.

Periods of the different Fisheries; Dimensions of the various kinds of Fish and Shell-fish.

Marine.

Nets, Instruments, Proceedings, and Methods of Fishing permitted.

Shell-fish beds: Fish-ponds.

Police and Surveillance of the Fishery.

Penal Dispositions.

Repression of Offences.

Transitory Dispositions.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE. Promulgation of Regulations.

II.—*Procès-Verbal of 31st March, 1859, respecting removal of Weir at Fontarabie.*

III.—*Declaration of 31st March, 1859, respecting Buoyage and Pilotage of the Bidassoa.*

(Translation.)

Regulations for the fishery in the Bidassoa having been drawn up by the Delegates of the Riverain Municipalities, in execution of Article XXII of the Treaty of Bayonne of December 2, 1856 (**No. 275**), the payment of the indemnity due to Fontarabie for the damming of its weir having also been effected, and the removal of that weir having consequently taken place according to the prescriptions of Articles XXIII and XXIV of the said Treaty.

The Plenipotentiaries of France and Spain, duly authorized, have agreed to combine in the present document the three Acts

* For a complete version of this Additional Act, in the French language, see "State Papers," vol. I, p. 1006.

containing the dispositions adopted by common accord for the completion of the above-mentioned Treaty, so far as it relates to Bidassoa, the tenour of which Acts is as follows:—

I.—*Fishery Regulations for the Bidassoa; drawn up 1st June, 1858, in the Isle of Faisans, between the Delegates of the French and Spanish Riverain Municipalities.*

ARTS. I—III. *Right of Fishery.*

ARTS. IV—VII. *Periods of the different Fisheries: Dimensions of the various kinds of Fish and Shell-fish.*

ART. VIII. *Marine.*

ARTS. IX—XII. *Nets, Instruments, Proceedings, and Methods of Fishing permitted.*

ARTS. XIII and XIV. *Shell-fish beds: Fish-ponds.*

ARTS. XV and XVI. *Police and Surveillance of the Fishery.*

ARTS. XVII—XXV. *Penal Dispositions.*

ARTS. XXVI—XXXI. *Repression of Offences.*

ARTS. XXXII and XXXIII. *Transitory Dispositions.*

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE. *Promulgation of Regulations.*

II.—*Procès-Verbal of March 31, 1859, respecting removal of Weir at Fontarabie.*

III.—*Declaration of March 31, 1859, respecting Buoyage and Pilotage of the Bidassoa.*

TURKISH REGULATIONS respecting the Calibre and Dimensions of Foreign Light Vessels of War to be admitted within the Straits of the Dardanelles for the service of Foreign Embassies. 7th April, 1859.

Memorandum addressed by the Porte to Sir H. Bulwer, British Ambassador at Constantinople.

(Translation as laid before Parliament.)

THE force and dimensions of the light ships which are allowed to enter the Straits of the Dardanelles by permission, in order to be placed at the disposal of the Embassies, and employed in

certain defined duties in virtue of an ancient rule of the Sultan's Government, confirmed by the Treaty of Paris of 30th March, 1856 (No. 264), not having been yet determined, mistakes occasionally occur.

In order to the complete observance of this rule, as well as to prevent in future the occurrence of mistakes, it appears suitable to adopt for the ships in question the calibre and dimensions of those which it has been agreed to employ in the Black Sea on the part of the Sultan's and the Russian Government, and not to exceed them. The maximum of these is 50 mètres in length above the watermark, and 800 tons in bulk.

The Imperial Government having determined that the above shall be the dimensions of ships that shall, in future, come within the Straits of the Dardanelles, I hasten to apprise your Excellency of it.

April 7, 1859.

CONVENTION between Italy and Switzerland defining the Boundary between the Valteline and the Canton of the Grisons. 27th August, 1863.

[See "State Papers," vol. lxiii, p. 926.]

*TREATY between Austria-Hungary and Russia, for the Regulation of the course of the Rivers Vistula and San, in those parts which form the Boundary between the Empire of Austria and the Kingdom of Poland. Signed at Cracow, 20th August, 1864.**

[Ratified by the Austrian Government at Vienna, 27th May, 1871, and by the Russian Government at St. Petersburg, 24th Oct., 5th Nov., 1871.]

ART.

TABLE.

1. Plans for regulation of *Vistula* and *San* to be brought into execution within a period of 20 years.
 2. Improvements of *Vistula* and *San* Rivers; depth of water for navigation to be made 3 feet; prevention of destruction of banks by high water and ice.
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* For a complete version of this Treaty, in the French language, see "State Papers," vol. lxx, pp. 333, 339.

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TABLE.

3. Regulation to be carried out according to normal traces agreed upon.
4. Regulation to be effected by (1) making rivers of an uniform breadth ; (2) protecting banks ; (3) concentrating stream and stopping off injurious side branches ; (4) straightening course of *Vistula* ; (5) removing islands and sandbanks ; (6) repairing dam or dyke works.
5. Division of cost of works.
6. Regulating works on both banks, to be carried out, as far as possible, simultaneously.
7. Frontier line to follow mid-stream of *Vistula*. Land removed in excavating to be paid for in full.
8. Strips of land to be reserved for horse tracks (towing paths).
9. *Austrian* stream overseers to mark out best channels for ships, also shallows and obstructions, until the regulating works are completed.
10. Boundary stones to be accurately marked, and when removed their new positions to be shown on the plans.
11. Former regulations revoked unless in agreement with present arrangements.
12. Special arrangement to be made before grant of concession for steam navigation.

Cracow, 20th August, 1864.

ECKHARDT, I.R., Lieut.-Councillor.

GUSTAV WEX, I.R., Inspector of Works.

KOLBERG.

WIERZBOWSKI.

DECLARATION.

Approval and acceptance by Austrian Government of above Treaty.

Vienna, 27th May, 1871.

(L.S.) COUNT VON BEUST.

PROMULGATION OF TREATY.

Vienna, 30th December, 1871.

LASSER.

ADDITIONAL CONVENTION between Italy and Switzerland, defining the Boundary between the Valteline and the Canton of the Grisons. 22nd August, 1864.

[See "State Papers," vol. lxiii, p. 931.]

*PUBLIC ACT relative to the Navigation of the Mouths of the Danube, from Isaktcha to the Sea. Signed at Galatz, 2nd November, 1865.**

(Translation.)

AN European Commission having been instituted by Article XVI of the Treaty of Paris of 30th March, 1856 (**No. 264**), in order to put the part of the Danube lying below Isaktcha, its mouths, and the neighbouring parts of the sea, in the best possible conditions of navigability :

And the said Commission acting in virtue of this mandate having succeeded, after nine years' work, in realising important improvements in the system of navigation, notably, by the construction of two piers at the mouth of the Sulina branch, which have had the effect of admitting into this embouchure vessels of a large draught of water ; by the execution of works of correction and cleansing in the course of the same branch ; by raising wrecks, and establishing a system of buoys ; by the erection of a lighthouse at the mouth of the St. George ; by the institution of a regular lifeboat service, and by the creation of a seaman's hospital at Sulina ; lastly, by the provisional regulation of the different services connected with the navigation between Isaktcha and the sea :

The Powers who signed the said Treaty concluded at Paris on the 30th March, 1856 (**No. 264**), desiring to make known that, in thus accomplishing an essential part of its task, the European Commission has acted in conformity with their intentions, and wishing to determine by a public Act the rights and obligations which the new state of things established on the Lower Danube has created for the different parties interested, and particularly for all the flags navigating the river, have named for their Plenipotentiaries, that is say :—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, John Stokes, Esq., Major in the Corps of Royal Engineers, &c.

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary and Bohemia, the Sieur Alfred Chevalier de Kremer, his Consul for the Course of the Lower Danube, &c.

* Approved by the Plenipotentiaries of the European Powers at Paris, by a Protocol dated 28th March, 1866 (**No. 375**).

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His Majesty the Emperor of the French, the Sieur Edward Engelhardt, his Consul of the First Class, &c.

His Majesty the King of Italy, the Sieur Hannibal Chevalier Strambio, his Political Agent and Consul-General in the United Principalities, &c.

His Majesty the King of Prussia, the Sieur Julius Alexander Aloyse Saint Pierre, his Councillor of Legation and Political Agent and Consul-General in the United Principalities, &c.

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, the Sieur Henry Baron d'Offenberg, his Councillor of State and Consul-General in the United Principalities, &c.

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Ahmet Rassim Pasha, Officer of the Rank of Mirimiran, his Governor of the Province of Toulteha, &c.

Who, after having shown their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions:—

PART I.—*Provisions relating to the Material Conditions of the Navigation.*

ART. I. All the works and establishments created in execution of Article XVI of the Treaty of Paris of 30th March, 1856 (**No. 264**), with all belonging to or depending from them, shall continue to be devoted exclusively to the use of the navigation of the Danube, and can never be turned aside from this object for any motive whatever; to this end they are placed under the guarantee and protection of international law.

The European Commission of the Danube, or the authority which shall of right take its place, shall continue charged, to the exclusion of all interference whatever, to administer these works and establishments for the advantage of the navigation, to watch over their maintenance and preservation, and to give to them all the development that the requirements of the navigation may demand.

ART. II. There shall be specially reserved to the European Commission, or to the authority that shall succeed it, the power to design and cause to be carried out all the works that may be deemed necessary, in the event of its being wished to render permanent the improvements, until now of a temporary character, in the branch and at the mouth of the Sulina, and to prolong the piers at this mouth according as the state of the Bar Channel may require it.

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ART. III. There will remain reserved to the said European Commission to undertake the improvement of the mouth and branch of the St. George, resolved on by common agreement, and simply postponed for the present.

ART. IV. The Sublime Port engages for the future, as hitherto, to lend to the European Commission, or to the authority which shall succeed it, all the assistance and all the co-operation which either may require in the execution of engineering works, and, generally, in all that concerns the accomplishment of its task. It will take care that the banks of the Danube from Isaktcha to the sea remain free from all buildings, private rights of way, and other obstacles whatsoever, and it will continue, under reserve of the annual rent to which landed property is subject in Turkey, to leave at the disposal of the Commission, in the Port of Sulina, the left bank of the river for a distance of 760 mètres up stream, measured from the foot of the north pier, and for a width of 150 mètres, measured from the bank.

It consents moreover to grant a fitting site on the right bank of the river for the buildings which the Commission, or the authority that shall succeed it, may think fit to erect for the service of the port of Sulina, for the Seaman's Hospital, and for the other requirements of the administration.

ART. V. In the event of the Commission making use of the reserve mentioned in Article III, concerning the improvement of the mouth and branch of St. George, the Sublime Porte consents that the said Commission may dispose, as soon as there shall be need of them, of the ground and sites belonging to the State Domain, which shall have been previously designed, and determined upon as necessary, both for the construction of works, and for the formation of the establishments which will have to be created in consequence of, or as a complement to, this improvement.

ART. VI. It is understood that on neither bank of the river, either in the port of Sulina or St. George, shall there be constructed either by the territorial authorities, by commercial or navigation companies, or by private individuals, any landing jetties, quays, or other establishments of the same nature, of which the plans have not been communicated to the European Commission, and recognised as being in conformity with the general plan of the quays, and as tending in no wise to compromise the effect of the works of improvement.

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PART II.—*Provisions relating to the Administrative Control of the Navigation.*

§ 1. *Of Regulations in General.*

ART. VII. The navigation of the mouths of the Danube is governed by the "Regulation of Navigation and Police," enacted by the European Commission under date of this day, and which, annexed under letter A to the present Act, is to have the same force and value as if it formed part of it.

It is understood that this regulation is binding as law, not only in what concerns the river police, but also for the judgment of cases of civil procedure arising from the exercise of the navigation.

ART. VIII. The exercise of the navigation on the Lower Danube is placed under the authority and the superintendence of the Inspector-General of the Lower Danube, and of the Captain of the Port of Sulina.

These two Agents, named by the Sublime Porte, shall conform all their acts to the regulation, the application of which is confided to them, and to the strict observance of which they shall be sworn. The sentences emanating from their authority shall be pronounced in the name of His Majesty the Sultan.

In case the European Commission or the permanent Riverain Commission shall establish that a delinquency or offence has been committed by one or other of the said Agents against the regulation of navigation and police, it will request his dismissal from the Sublime Porte. If the Sublime Porte thinks it necessary to proceed to a fresh inquiry into the facts already established by the Commission, the latter will have the right to attend it by the medium of a delegate, and when the culpability of the accused shall have been duly proved, the Sublime Porte will provide without delay for his being replaced.

Except in the case provided for by the preceding paragraph, the Inspector-General and the Captain of the Port of Sulina can only be removed from their respective posts at their own request, or in consequence of an agreement between the Sublime Porte and the European Commission.

These Agents will thus both act under the superintendence of the European Commission.

The Inspector-General, the Captains of the Ports of Sulina

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and Toultscha, and the Superintendents (subordinate to the Inspector-General), shall be paid by the Ottoman Government.

They shall be chosen from among competent persons.

ART. IX. In virtue of the principles of the Act of the Congress of Vienna (**No. 27**), confirmed by Article XV of the Treaty of Paris (**No. 264**), the authority of the Inspector-General and of the Captain of the Port of Sulina is exercised towards all flags without distinction.

The Inspector-General is specially set over the police of the river below Isaktcha, exclusive of the port of Sulina; he is assisted by superintendents distributed over the different sections of the river within this jurisdiction.

The Captain of the Port of Sulina is charged with the police of the port and outer roadstead of Sulina.

A special instruction, determined by common agreement, regulates in its details the action of the Inspector-General and that of the Captain of the Port of Sulina.

ART. X. Merchant captains, to whatever nationality they belong, are bound to obey the orders given to them in virtue of the regulation of navigation and police by the Inspector-General and by the Captain of the Port of Sulina.

ART. XI. The carrying out of the regulation of navigation and police, as well as the application of the Tariff, of which mention will be made in the XIIIth and following Articles of the present Act, is moreover insured by the action of the vessels of war stationed at the mouths of the Danube, in conformity with Article XIX of the Treaty of Paris (**No. 264**).

Each naval force on the station acts upon the vessel of his own nationality, and upon those whose flag it is called upon to protect, whether by virtue of Treaties or usage, or in consequence of a general or special delegation.

In default of a vessel of war qualified to interfere, the International authorities of the river can have recourse to the vessel of war of the territorial Power.

ART. XII. It is understood that the Regulation of Navigation and Police joined to the present Act will continue to be law until such time as the Regulations mentioned in Article XVII of the Treaty of Paris (**No. 264**) shall have been determined by common agreement, and put in force. The same thing is understood of the provisions of the foregoing Articles VIII, IX, and X, in so far as the powers of the Inspector-General are concerned.

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§ 2. *Of the Tariff of Navigation Dues. Articles XIII—XVII.*

§ 3. *On Quarantine. Articles XVIII—XX.*

PART III.—*Neutrality.*

ART. XXI. The works and establishments of all kinds created by the European Commission of the Danube, or by the authority which shall succeed it, in execution of Article XVI of the Treaty of Paris (No. 264), particularly the Navigation Cash Office at Sulina, and those which it may hereafter create, shall enjoy the neutrality stipulated by Article XI of the said Treaty, and shall be, in case of war, equally respected by all the belligerents.

The benefit of this neutrality shall be extended, with the obligations which spring from it, to the general inspection of the navigation, to the administration of the Port of Sulina, to the staff of the Navigation Cash Office and Seaman's Hospital, and, lastly, to the Technical Staff charged with the superintendence of the works.

ART. XXII. This present Act shall be ratified. Each of the High Contracting Parties will ratify in a single copy; and the ratifications shall be deposited within the space of two months, or sooner if possible, in the Chancellery of the Imperial Divan at Constantinople.

In faith of which, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it, and affixed to it the seal of their arms.

Done at Galatz, the 2nd day of the month of November, of the year 1865.

(L.S.) J. STOKES.

(L.S.) A. DE KREMER.

(L.S.) ED. ENGELHARDT.

(L.S.) STRAMBIO.

(L.S.) SAINT PIERRE.

(L.S.) OFFENBERG.

(L.S.) AHMET RASSIM.

ANNEX A.—*Regulation of Navigation and Police applicable to the Lower Danube.*

General Provisions.

ART. I. The navigation of the Lower Danube below

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Isaktcha is placed under the control of the "Inspector-General of the Navigation of the Lower Danube" and of the Captain of the Port of Sulina.

These two Agents both officiate under the superintendence of the European Commission of the Danube. Their authority is exercised towards all flags alike, without distinction.

ART. II. The execution of the Regulations applicable to the Lower Danube, is equally insured by the action of the vessels of war stationed at the mouths in accordance with Article XIX of the Treaty of Paris. (No. 264.)

Each naval force on the station acts upon the vessels of its own country, or upon those whose flag it is called upon to protect, either in virtue of Treaties or usage, or in consequence of a general or special delegation.

In the absence of a vessel of war qualified to interfere, the authorities charged with the police of the river can have recourse to the vessels of war of the territorial Power.

ART. III. The Inspector-General is specially charged with the police of the Lower Danube, exclusive of the Port of Sulina.

He is assisted by several Superintendents distributed over the different sections of the river under his jurisdiction.

ART. IV. The Captain of the Port of Sulina is charged with the police of the port and of the roadstead of Sulina.

ART. V. The masters of merchant-vessels, to whatever country they belong, are bound to comply with the orders which are given to them by virtue of the present Regulation, by the Inspector-General, and by the Captain of the Port of Sulina.

They are equally bound to state to them, when called upon to do so, their names, as well as the flags and names of their vessels, and to show to them their agreements with their crews, without prejudice to the provisions of Articles X, XVII, and LXV, hereinafter contained.

A special instruction emanating from the European Commission of the Danube, regulates particularly the action of these two Agents.

ART VI. Independently of the judicial functions exercised by them in the cases provided for in Articles LXXIX and CVII of the present Regulation, the Inspector-General and the Captain of the Port of Sulina decide summarily on disputes arising between captains and their crews, calling in the aid of two captains of the same nationality as the contending parties, or, in default of them, of two other captains.

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They do not, however, exercise this part of their powers unless their interference is claimed by one of the parties concerned, and then only in the event of there being no other competent authority on the spot.

PART I.—*Concerning the Police of the Sulina Roads and Port.*

CHAPTER I.—*Police Regulations for the Sulina Roads. Articles VII—XI.*

CHAPTER II.—*Police Regulations for the Port of Sulina. Articles XII—XXI.*

CHAPTER III.—*Provisions common to both Roadstead and Port of Sulina. Articles XXII—XXIV.*

PART II.—*Concerning the River Police.*

CHAPTER I.—*General Regulations. Article XXV.*

CHAPTER II.—*Regulations for Vessels crossing or passing one another. Articles XXVI—XXXVII.*

CHAPTER III.—*Towage Rules. Articles XXXVIII—XXXIX.*

CHAPTER IV.—*Rules relative to Tracking from the Banks. Articles XL—XLVI.*

CHAPTER V.—*Rules for Navigating at Night or in a Fog. Articles XLVII—L.*

CHAPTER VI.—*Rules for Vessels at Anchor. Articles LI—LIV.*

CHAPTER VII.—*Rules for cases of Stranding and Shipwreck. Articles LV—LXIII.*

CHAPTER VIII.—*Rules for the Discharge of Ballast. Articles LXIV, LXV.*

PART III.—*Concerning the Police of the Port of Toulitcha. Articles LXVI—LXVIII.*

PART IV.—*Concerning the Pilot Service at the Mouth and in the River.*

CHAPTER I.—*Pilot Service at the Mouth. Articles LXIX—LXXIV.*

CHAPTER II.—*River Pilot Service. Articles LXXV—LXXVIII.*

CHAPTER III.—*Provisions common to the Pilot Service of both Mouth and River. Articles LXXIX—LXXXI.*

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PART V.—*The Lighter Service.*

CHAPTER I.—*General Rules. Articles LXXXII—LXXXIII.*

CHAPTER II.—*Local Lighters. Articles LXXXIV—XC.*

CHAPTER III.—*Concerning Coasting Lighters. Articles XCI—XCIII.*

CHAPTER IV.—*Special Provisions for Circumstances beyond Control. Articles XCIV—XCV.*

CHAPTER V.—*Special Provisions in Cases of Fraud. Articles XCVI—XCVII.*

PART VI.—*On Offences.*

CHAPTER I.—*Assessment of Fines.*

§ 1. *Offences against the Provisions of Part I for the Police of the Roads and Port of Sulina. Article XCVIII.*

§ 2. *Offences against the Provisions of Part II for the River Police. Article XCIX.*

§ 3. *Offences against the Provisions of Part III on the Police of the Port of Toultscha. Article C.*

§ 4. *Offences against the Provisions of Part IV on the Pilot Service. Article CI.*

§ 5. *Offences against the Provisions of Part V for the Lighter Service. Article CII.*

§ 6. *Abusive Language and Assaults. Article CIII.*

CHAPTER II.—*Rules for the Infliction of Fines, Articles CIV—CXI.*

Final Provision.

ART. CXII. The present Regulation annexed to the Public Act, dated this day, may be modified, according to need, by the European Commission or by the authority which shall be substituted for it in virtue of Article XVII of the Treaty of Paris (No. 264).

Done at Galatz, the 2nd of November, 1865.

J. STOKES.

J. DE KREMER.

ED. ENGELHARDT.

STRAMBIO.

SAINT PIERRE.

OFFENBERG.

AHMET RASSIM.

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ANNEX B.—*Tariff of Navigation Dues to be levied at the Mouth of the Danube.*

Preamble.

The European Commission of the Danube.

Whereas, by Article XVI of the Treaty of Paris of the 30th March, 1856 (**No. 264**), declaring that the cost of the works to be executed in freeing the mouths of the Danube and of the adjacent portions of the sea from the obstacles which obstruct them, as well as the cost of the establishments intended to secure and to facilitate the navigation, should be paid by means of charges fixed by the Commission ;

Whereas, a provisional tariff was enacted in consequence on the 25th July, 1860, and a revised tariff on the 7th March, 1863 ;

Whereas, the works undertaken at the mouth of the Sulina are now finished, and that, by means of the increased depth which has been obtained, the obstacles to navigation at this point have been removed ;

Whereas, the works of improvement and cleansing executed in the course of the river, the erection of a lighthouse at the St. George's mouth, and the improvements introduced with regard to the establishments to which the Treaty refers, as well as the creation of a Seaman's Hospital at Sulina, to which sick or shipwrecked sailors are admitted free of charge, ensure to the navigation considerable advantages ;

Whereas, under these circumstances, and to provide as much for the paying off of the amount spent on the works, as for the cost of their preservation as well as of their eventual development, and of the maintenance of the above-mentioned establishments, it is necessary to adopt definitive regulations in the place of the provisional arrangements of the tariff actually in force ;

And whereas experience has shown that there is an advantage to the navigation in merging in one single shipping due the tolls levied for the improvements and the pilotage and light dues ;

Have enacted the following Tariff :—

[Here follows the Tariff. Articles I—XVII.]

Article XVIII. The Commanders of ships of war stationed at the mouths of the Danube, conformable to Article XIX of the Treaty of Paris (**No. 264**) shall be called upon to assure the

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payment of the duties established by the present tariff, and of the penalties when definitely settled, with respect to vessels of their own nationality, and to those whose flags they protect, either by Treaty or custom, or in virtue of a special or general delegation.

The action of the ships of war shall be demanded *en règle* through the Captain of the Port of Sulina upon the requisition of the accountant charged with the administration of the Navigation Cash Office.

In default of a ship of war having power to coerce an offending vessel, the Captain of the Port shall have recourse to the intervention of the Ottoman man-of-war stationed at Sulina.

Art. XIX. The Provisional Tariff of the 7th March, 1863, shall cease to be applied, and the present Tariff shall come into force after the ratification of the Public Act to which it is annexed, and upon the date to be hereafter fixed by a special notification of the European Commission to that effect.

Done at Galatz, the 2nd of November, 1865.

J. STOKES.

A. DE KREMER.

ED. ENGELHARDT.

STRAMBIO.

SAINT PIERRE.

OFFENBERG.

AHMET RASSIM.

TABLE showing the proportion between the ton register English and the measures adopted in other countries for gauging vessels :—

[Here follows the Table.]

1 English ton equal to $61\frac{5}{100}$ kilos. of Constantinople.

1 ditto ditto $4\frac{8}{100}$ kilos. of Galatz; $3\frac{1}{100}$ kilos. of Braïla.

Galatz, November 2, 1865.

*FIRMAN of the Sultan of Turkey, promulgating the Organic Regulations for the Reorganization of Crete. 10th January, 1868.**

[Referred to in Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530). See also *Projet de Loi*, 23rd August, 1880 (No. 575).]

(Translation.)

To my Vizier Hussein Avni Pasha, invested with the command of my Imperial Troops in Crete, and at the same time with the Government of that island, and decorated with my Imperial Orders of the Osmanié and Medjidié of the First Class; to Pertew, Moustapha, Sawas, and Costaki Pashas, enjoying the rank of Roumélie-beylerbey and Governors of the districts of Canadia, Réthimo, Sphakia, and Lassithe, and to the Sub-Governors of the Island of Crete.

The losses and sufferings experienced by Crete, and which have been the sad result of disorders occurring in that island, have filled my heart with sorrow. Wishing before all things to remedy these evils, to regulate the internal administration of that island, and to secure to all the inhabitants indiscriminately happiness and prosperity, under all circumstances, we have decided that from the 1st of March next year (1868) and for the term of two consecutive years, all the inhabitants of the island shall be exempted from tithes on all produce subject to that tax; that at the expiration of those two years of complete exemption from the tithe, there shall be levied, from the 1st March, 1870, also for the space of two years in lieu of tithe, a half tithe, namely, 5 per cent., the proceeds of which shall be applied to the improvements which shall be specified as being the most favourable to the commercial and agricultural interests of the island, by the General Assembly which, elected by the whole population, is to meet every year in the capital of the Vilayet.

All our subjects having an equal claim to our solicitude, we have, moreover, decided that the Christian inhabitants of Crete shall be exempt from the contribution for redemption from military service, so long as the Mussulman population of the island shall be exempt therefrom; and that the wishes expressed on the

* Modified by subsequent Firmans. See page 3280.

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subject of certain taxes, in the address presented by the Mussulman and Christian delegates assembled at the Canea, shall be attended to in conformity with the dispositions of our Imperial Firman on the subject.

We have also decreed the following Regulations, forming the Organic Regulation which is annexed to our Imperial Ordinance addressed to our Grand Vizier, dated 2nd Djémazi-ul-sanié of the present year, and which, bearing our Imperial handwriting, has been promulgated in the island.

Organic Regulations.

1. The General Administration of the Island of Crete shall be entrusted to a Vali (Governor-General) appointed by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and the command of the Imperial fortresses, as well as of the troops of the island, to a Commander-in-Chief.

2. The appointments of Vali and Commander-in-Chief shall be independent the one from the other; His Imperial Majesty the Sultan shall, however, have the power of uniting, in case of necessity, the duties of Vali to those of the Commander-in-Chief.

3. The Vali governs the island in conformity with the laws of the Empire, and the separate regulations relating to the island.

The Vali shall be appointed by two Councillors appointed by Imperial Ordinance and chosen, the one from among the Mussulman functionaries, and the other from among the Christian functionaries of the Empire.

4. The island shall be divided into as many Sandjaks or districts as may be found necessary. These districts shall be administered by Mutessarifs (Governors) chosen from among the functionaries of the Imperial Government; the Governors shall be half Mussulman and half Christian. The Mussulman Governors shall be assisted by Christian Mouavins (Deputies), and the Christian Governors by Mussulman Mouavins, both appointed by the Imperial Government.

5. The Sandjaks shall be divided into Kazas (Cantons), and the Kazas shall be governed by Caimacams (Sub-Governors) chosen and appointed by the Sublime Porte, and taken as occasion requires from among the Mussulman or Christian function-

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aries of the Imperial Government. These Caimacams shall be assisted by Mouavins in accordance with the above-mentioned rules.

6. The administration of the finances shall be entrusted, for the general Government, to a Defterdar (Director), for each Sandjak to a Mouassébedji (Sub-Director), and for each Kaza to a Mal-Mudiri. These several offices shall be entrusted according to circumstances to Mussulman and Christian functionaries.

7. There shall be a Council of Administration attached to the Governor-General, as well as to each of the Governors and Sub-Governors. The Council of Administration of the Central Government shall be presided over by the Governor-General, and shall have for its members the two Councillors, the Chief of the Magistrates (Mufettichi-Hukkian), the Greek Metropolitan, the Defterdar (Director of Finances), the Mektoubdjis (Directors of Correspondence), and six other members, three Mussulman and three Christian, elected by their respective communities.

The official correspondence in the island being in two languages, it shall be entrusted to two Mektoubdjis for the Governor-General, and to two Bachkiatibs (Directors of Correspondence) for each Sandjak.

8. The Administrative Council of each Mixed Sandjak shall be composed, under the Presidency of the Governor, of the Mouavin, Judge, Bishop, Mouassébedji, Directors of Correspondence, and six members, three Christian and three Mussulman, elected by the population. In the Sandjaks exclusively Christian, the Council shall be composed always under the Presidency of the Governor-General, of the Mouavin, Bishop, Mouassébedji, Directors of Correspondence, and six Christian members, elected by the population.

The preceding rules shall also apply to the Councils of Administration of the Kazas.

9. Civil and military tribunals shall be appointed at the seat of the Government and in the Sandjaks and Kazas.

The tribunals at the seat of the Government and in the Mixed Sandjaks and Kazas, shall be composed of Mussulman and Christian members chosen by the people. In Sandjaks and Kazas exclusively Christian, those tribunals shall be composed of Christians only.

10. There shall be at the seat of the Government and in each Mixed Sandjak a Religious Mussulman Tribunal for the trial

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of Mussulmans. Each commune shall have a Council of Elders, and each Sandjak a Démogérontie or Council of Elders for each of the Mussulman and Christian Communities.

The members of those Councils will be elected by their constituents.

11. All civil, criminal, and commercial suits between Christians and Mussulmans, and all other mixed differences, shall be judged by the Mixed Civil and Commercial Tribunals. Special regulations will define the competency and attributions of the Religious Mussulman Tribunals, and of the Démogérondia.

12. A Council-General shall be established at the seat of Government, elected by the population, in which each Kaza shall be represented by two Delegates; every exclusively Mussulman Kaza will send Mussulman Delegates to the Council-General; the same shall be observed towards the exclusively Christian Kazas; and every Mixed Kaza shall be represented by a Mussulman Delegate.

A special regulation will determine the manner in which those Delegates shall be elected. The duties of the Council, which will assemble once a year, will consist of questions relating to works of public utility, such as the development of the means of communication, the formation of banks, and everything tending to improve agriculture, commerce, and industry, and measures for spreading public instruction in all matters of general usefulness. The Imperial Government will set apart, out of the revenues of the islands, funds for the payment of such local improvements as may be proposed by the General Council, and approved and decreed by the Sublime Porte. Those funds will be placed under the control of the Council-General.

13. The inhabitants having always been exempt from the direct tax which all the other provinces of the Empire pay to the State, there shall only be levied in the island the tithe, the duty exempting from military service, the duties on wines and spirits, the Customs dues and the duties on salt and tobacco, charged as a compensation for the reduction of Customs dues, and certain other duties paid by the inhabitants of the island, as well as in other parts of the Empire, and the reduction of which is now under revision.

No other contribution shall be levied in the island.

14. The Council-General shall be entrusted with the exami-

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nation of the necessary measures for carrying out the collection of the whole of the revenues of the State, and giving to the population of the island facilities and advantages for the payment of the tithes and military tax. The Imperial Government will take measures for the application of those improvements in accordance with the wishes which the Council-General express in the matter.

We have finally invested with our sanction the following Regulations, founded on the bases described in the Organic Regulation; they relate to the Judicial and Administrative Organizations, and to the Finances of the island.

(ANNEX.) REGULATIONS FOUNDED ON THE BASIS OF THE ORGANIC REGULATIONS FOR CRETE.*

Judicial Regulation—Organization of Justice.

- CHAP. 1. Arts. I to XIII. Formation of District Mixed Courts.
„ 2. Arts. XIV to XXII. Formation of Provincial Mixed Courts.
„ 3. Arts. XXIII to XXXI. Formation of Mixed Courts at the seat of Government.
„ 4. Arts. XXXII to XXXVI. Jurisdiction of Mixed Courts of different classes.
„ 5. Arts. XXXVII and XXXVIII. Jurisdiction of Provincial Mixed Courts.
„ 6. Art. XXXIX. Jurisdiction of Mixed Courts at the seat of Government.
„ 7. Arts. XL and XLI. Special Jurisdiction of Mixed Courts.
„ 8. Arts. XLII to LI. Regulations applicable to Mixed Courts of different classes.
„ 9. Arts. LII to LXIII. Formation of Commercial Courts.
„ 10. Arts. LXIV to LXVI. Jurisdiction of Commercial Courts.
„ 11. Arts. LXVII and LXVIII. Formation of Councils of Elders or Demogerondia.
„ 12. Arts. LXIX to LXXII. Jurisdiction of the Councils of Elders.
„ 13. Arts. LXXIII to LXXVI. Regulations respecting the Settlement of Differences arising between one Mixed Court and another.
„ 14. Art. LXXVII. Judicial Statistics.

* See "State Papers," vol. lviii, p. 14.

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Administrative Regulations.

- CHAP. 1. Arts. I to X. General Administration of the Central Government of the Island of Crete.
- „ 2. Arts. XI to XXXIII. Powers and Method of Election of the Administrative Council of the Central Government.
- „ 3. Arts. XXXIV to XLIII. Powers and Method of Election of District Councils of Administration.
- „ 4. Art. XLIV. Councils of Elders.

Regulations for the Organization of the Council-General.

- CHAP. 1. Arts. I to XIV. Elections for the Council-General.
- „ 2. Arts. XV to XXVI. Sitzings and Deliberations of the Council-General.
- „ 3. Arts. XXVII to XXXIII. Powers of the Council-General (10 January, 1868).

Written on the 15th day of the month Ramazan, 1284 (10th January, 1868.)

CONVENTION between Italy and San Marino, respecting Italian Protection, &c. Signed at Rome, 27th March, 1872.

TABLE.

ART.

1. Judicial Sentences.
2. Public Acts.
3. Summonses and Notifications of Sentences and of Judicial Acts.
4. Certificates of Death, of Birth, and of Marriage.
5. Judicial Sentences.
6. Letters of Requisition in Civil and Commercial Cases, &c.
- 7—21. Extradition.
- 22—28. Surrender of Deserters.
29. Indigent Subjects.
30. Mortmain Property. Religious Institutions, &c.
31. Passports.
32. Free Circulation of Produce, Goods, Cattle, Manufactures, and Merchandize, with certain exceptions.
33. Money.
34. *San Marino* Share of *Italian* Customs Revenue.
35. Literary Property.
36. Cultivation of Tobacco.
37. Supply by *Italy* to *Marino* of *White Cervian* Salt and Foreign Tobacco.

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38. The Republic of *San Marino*, having every reason to trust that it will never be deprived of His Majesty the King of Italy's protecting friendship for the preservation of its very ancient liberty and independence, declares that it will not accept the protection of any other Power whatever.
39. Duration of Convention.
40. Ratifications.

[Ratifications exchanged 24th April, 1872.]

(Translation.)

HIS Majesty the King of Italy and the Most Serene Republic of San Marino, having recognised the reciprocal convenience of introducing some modifications into the Convention stipulated between them on the 22nd of March, 1862 (**No. 335**), and now about to expire, in order to consolidate still more the relations of good neighbourhood and friendship, and to remove every cause of complaint between the two Governments, have for that purpose appointed appropriate Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :—

ART. I. *Judicial Sentences.*

ART. II. *Public Acts.*

ART. III. *Summonses and Notifications of Sentences and Judicial Acts.*

ART. IV. *Certificates of Death: Certificates of Birth and of Marriage.*

ART. V. *Judicial Assistance.*

ART. VI. *Letters of Requisition in Civil and Commercial Cases, &c.*

ARTS. VII—XXI. *Extradition.*

ARTS. XXII—XXVIII. *Surrender of Deserters.*

ART. XXIX. *Indigent Subjects.*

ART. XXX. *Mortmain Property: Religious Institutions, &c.*

ART. XXXI. *Passports.*

ART. XXXII. *Free Circulation of Produce, Goods, Cattle, Manufactures, and Merchandise, with certain exceptions.*

ART. XXXIII. *Money.*

ART. XXXIV. *Colonial Articles, Merchandise, &c.: San Marino Share of Italian Customs Revenue.*

ART. XXXV. *Literary Property.*

ART. XXXVI. *Cultivation of Tobacco.*

ART. XXXVII. *Supply by Italy to Marino of White Cervian Salt and Foreign Tobacco.*

ART. XXXVIII. The Republic of San Marino, having every

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reason to trust that it will never be deprived of His Majesty the King of Italy's protecting friendship for the preservation of its very ancient liberty and independence, declares that it will not accept the protection of any other Power whatever.

ART. XXXIX. *Duration of Convention: Ratifications.*

PROTOCOL between Italy and Switzerland, to carry into effect the Award of the American Arbitrator, of 23rd September, 1874, on the Question of the Frontier at Alpe de Cravairola.—Signed at Berne, 17th May, 1875.

[See "State Papers," vol. lxvi, p. 630.]

PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the European Military Commissioners appointed to carry out the Armistice between Turkey and Montenegro and between Turkey and Servia. 12th November—13th December, 1876.*

* The Commissioners were—

For Great Britain :	{ Major Thomas Gonne. Maj.-Gen. Sir A. B. Kemball.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Lieut.-Col. de Raab.
„ France :	Capt. de Torcy.
„ Germany :	Col. de Montey.
„ Italy :	Major Majnoni d'Intignano.
„ Russia :	Col. Zelenoy.

The Delegates for arranging the Armistice between Turkey and Montenegro were—

For Great Britain :	Col. Wilbraham Lennox.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Lt.-Col. Alboni.
„ France :	Commandant T. V. Lemoyne.
„ Germany :	Lt.-Col. Von Seebeck.
„ Italy :	M. C. Durango.
„ Russia :	Col. A. Bogoluboff.

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Protocol	No.	1	12th November, 1876.	Widdin.
"	2	$\frac{1}{3}$ th	"	"
"	3	14th	"	"
"	4	15th	"	Zaitschar.
"	5	17th	"	Planinica.
"	6	18th	"	Zaitschar.
"	7	20th	"	Kriazevatz.
"	8	21st	"	Deligrad.
"	9	22nd	"	Alexinitz.
"	10	23rd	"	Ditto.
"	11	24th	"	Djunis.
"	12	25th	"	Pres de Ljubes.
"	13	$\frac{2}{3}$ th	"	Alexinitz.
"	14	27th	"	Alexinitz.
"	15	2nd December	..	Belgrade.
"	16	3rd	..	Ditto.
"	17	4th	..	Ditto.
"	18	6th	..	Chabatz.
"	19	?	..	?
"	20	10th	..	Biélinea.
"	21	$\frac{1}{3}$ th	..	Ditto.

*PROCÈS-VERBAL between Italy and Switzerland, of the
Demarcation of the Frontier between Pizzo Combolo and
Sasso Lughina. Berne, 29th January 1877.
Milan, 4th February*

[See "State Papers," vol. lxix, p. 439.]

*PROCÈS-VERBAL relative to the Line of Boundary between France and the German Empire. Signed at Metz, 26th April, 1877.**

(Translation.)

By the terms of the 1st Article of the Preliminary Treaty of Peace of February 26, 1871 (**No. 438**), and also of the Definitive Treaty of the 10th May following (**No. 446**) between France and the German Empire, the High Contracting Powers having agreed to cause the position of the frontier-line and also the division of movable and immovable property belonging to parishes intersected by the frontier-line to be settled by an International Commission, the following persons have been appointed members of the said Commission :

By the President of the French Republic—

The General of Division Louis Toussaint Simon Doutrilaine ;

The Colonel of Engineers Aimé Laussedat ;

The Major of Engineers Charles Henri Bouvier.

By His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia—

Lieutenant-General Carl Theodor von Strantz ;

Major Heinrich Rhein, commanding a battalion of the 5th Regiment of Baden Infantry, No. 113 ;

The Regency Councillor Adolph Adam von Bruce.

The said Commissioners, after having exchanged their full powers, have drawn up the following Procès-Verbal, subject to the approval of their respective Governments :—

ART. I. The frontier between France and the German Empire has been determined, bounded, and measured in execution of the stipulations :

(1.) Of Article I of the Preliminary Treaty of Peace of February 26, 1871 (**No. 438**) ;

(2.) Of Article I of the Definitive Treaty of Peace between France and the German Empire, dated May 10, 1871 (**No. 446**) ;

(3.) Of the third of the Additional Articles of May 10, 1871 (**No. 446**), which form an integral part of the Treaty of Peace of the same date ;

(4.) Of Article X of the Additional Convention to the

* For French Version, see "State Papers," vol. lxxiii, p. 108.

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Treaty of Peace between France and the German Empire, dated October 12, 1871 (No. 447).

(5.) Of the Convention relating to the tracing of the frontier-line across the parish of Aviscourt, concluded on the 24th and 27th August, 1872, by the Members of the International Boundary Commission. ("State Papers," vol. lxiii, p. 1014.)

(6.) Of the Convention relating to the tracing of the frontier-line across the parishes of Raon-les-Leau and Raon-sur-Plaine, concluded of the 28th and 31st August, 1872, by the members of the same commission. ("State Papers," vol. lxiii, p. 1012.)

With the exception of the tracing over the territories of the French parishes of Raon-les-Leau and Raon-sur-Plaine, and of the German parishes of Serven and Aviscourt, which are intersected by the frontier, in execution of the International Conventions above-mentioned, the boundary of the two States is identical with the boundaries of the parishes; it is described, as far as its leading features are concerned, in the subjoined general description of the frontier, which is signed by the members of the Commission, and, with regard to the details, in the boundary register, which is also annexed to the present Procès-Verbal. This register is signed by the French and German Chief Surveyors attached to the Commission. To both documents a French stamp and a German stamp are affixed.

The line of frontier, drawn in conformity with the statements contained in the general description and in the boundary register, is represented by a red stripe in the general map, and also on the map of details annexed to the present Procès-Verbal, which have been drawn respectively on a scale of $\frac{1}{20000}$ and of $\frac{1}{12500}$. The French copy and the German copy of these maps have been signed by the French and German Chief Surveyors, and a French and a German stamp have been affixed to them.

The French maps include: the map on the scale of $\frac{1}{20000}$ in 16 sheets; the map on the scale of $\frac{1}{12500}$ in 101 sheets.

The German maps include: the map on the scale of $\frac{1}{20000}$ in 22 sheets; the map on the scale of 1250 in 727 sheets.

2. The French Government and the Government of the German Empire will take the necessary measures in order that the roads which run alongside the Franco-German frontier should

continue to be kept in good repair as heretofore by the competent authorities.

3. The roads which run alongside the Franco-German frontier and which were common to both States, a list of which is given in the annexed Table A, has, in order to simplify the matter of keeping them in repair, been divided lengthways into two parts, and given, with their entire breadth, partly to France and partly to Germany. Those roads are declared neutral with regard to Customs; which must be understood thus—that persons will be allowed freely along them with articles subject or not to custom-house duties, and that, moreover, the Agents of both States charged with the supervision of the frontier will be authorized to walk over them while carrying arms.

4. The road from Paris to Basle is met three times by the frontier-line at short intervals, between the territories of the French parish of Foussemagne and of the German parish of Chavannes-sur-l'Etang. In consequence of the difficulty for keeping it in repair arising from this circumstance, that portion of the said road has been, without prejudice to the rights of Sovereignty, divided into two nearly equal parts, and the dividing spot has been marked by a boundary stone which, situated between the principal boundary stones 3801 and 3802, acts also as an intermediary boundary and bears the number 2. That portion of the road which adjoins the French territory will be kept in repair as far as this boundary mark by the French Administration without regard to the position of the frontier, and that portion which adjoins the German territory will be kept in repair by the Administration of Alsace-Lorraine.

5. The parish road from Aviscourt to Foulerey, which runs across French territory for a distance of 737 mètres, existing only for the exclusive use of two German parishes, the Administration of Alsace-Lorraine will undertake entirely to keep in repair that portion of the said road situated on the territory of the French parish of Igney. In return, the French Government pledge themselves not to do away with it without the consent of the German Government; moreover, this portion of the road shall be considered as neutral with regard to Customs, that it may be used for the conveyance of articles subject to custom-house and municipal ("octroi") duties, and may be walked over by the customs and police officers of both States, carrying their arms.

6. The owners of private roads crossing the frontier-line

may continue to make use of them in the management of their estates, under the same conditions as if those roads were situated entirely in the territory of either State.

7. The expense of keeping in repair and rebuilding the bridges hereafter mentioned in Article 8, which are situated upon border streams and are parts of public highways, will be borne half by the French Administration and half by that of Alsace-Lorraine. Each Government shall, however, have a right to transfer the whole or part of the expenses thrown upon it to those upon whom rests the obligation of having the works executed; but under no circumstances shall this repayment assume the shape of a toll.

8. The French Administration is charged with the execution at common expense of the work of building and keeping in repair the eight bridges enumerated in the Table B annexed. The German Administration will refund them half of the expenses incurred upon the production of the yearly accounts of receipts and expenses.

The Administration of Alsace-Lorraine is charged under the same conditions with the building and maintenance of the nine bridges enumerated in the Table C annexed. Upon the production of the yearly accounts and expenses the French Administration will refund half of the expenses incurred.

9. The bridge situated near the boundary mark No. 1618 upon the old road from Nancy to Strasburg being almost entirely in German territory, and being scarcely touched by the frontier-line, will be kept in repair exclusively by Alsace-Lorraine.

The footway under the railway on the road from Baccarat to Dieuze, near the boundary No. 1560, being almost entirely in French territory, and being also scarcely touched by the frontier-line, will be kept in repair exclusively by France.

10. The fitting and the keeping in repair of the approaches and of the slopes leading thereto will be charged to each Administration upon its own territory.

11. Each of the two Governments shall make known to the Government of the neighbouring country the financial department to which shall be entrusted the care of recovering the sums to be paid by the authorities of the latter country for the half of the expenses placed to its share.

12. The French Government and the Government of the German Empire shall treat the forest property of foreign

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parishes or institutions as private property, but they will give their support to the Government of the boundary State for the exercise of the supervision which falls to it in the administration of the said property.

13. The local authorities shall enforce police regulations in the forests and ensure to them legal protection by means of subjects of the State within the limits of which each forest is situated.

14. The owners of forests, however, and the Governments entrusted with their guardianship shall preserve the right of appointing private keepers, who shall be required to fulfil the conditions as to their nationality and capabilities prescribed by the laws and regulations of the State upon the territory of which the forest is situated; such keepers will receive their commissions from the constituted authorities of the said State, and shall be sworn. Their rights and their duties will be the same as those of the keepers of forests the owners of which are not foreigners. The expenses in connection with such keepers will be paid by the owners of the forests.

15. Should the parishes or institutions desire that the keeping of their forests should be entrusted to a forest agent belonging to the *personnel* either of the State or of a parish of the foreign country, the Government of that country shall not refuse its consent unless for serious motives, and shall use its influence in order to bring about an agreement between the owner of the forest and the agent who is to have the supervision of it. The guardianship shall, as a rule, be entrusted to an agent residing in the immediate neighbourhood.

16. The salary to be paid to the agent by the owner of the forest shall be settled in proportion with the net salary which he receives for the rest of his charge, according to the extent of wood to be taken care of. This salary shall be paid into the Government chests of the nation to which the agent belongs; it will be fixed in specie, all other forms of emolument being excluded.

17. All negotiations upon matters relating to forests shall be entrusted, in each particular case, to the competent authorities, namely, to the prefects for France and to the Presidents of Departments for Alsace-Lorraine, with whom the Superior Forest Agents shall co-operate.

18. Forests belonging to foreign parishes or institutions shall be managed and worked according to the rules laid down

by the legislation of the country upon which the proprietary parishes or institutions are dependent.

19. With that view it shall be lawful for the agents entrusted with the management of woods to penetrate into the foreign territory, and to perform in the aforesaid forests all operations relating to administration and cultivation for which they are responsible.

20. The precise working of forests shall be regulated by the owners or by their legal guardians. It will not be subjected to any restrictions other than those which arise from the regulations relating to the police of forests.

21. The inhabitants of the parts detached from the French parish of Raon-sur-Plaine and ceded to the German Empire, and their lawful representatives, shall remain in possession of all their former rights upon the parochial forest of Raon-sur-Plaine.

22. They shall continue to be inscribed on the list of persons entitled to the free use of the wood of Raon-sur-Plaine, and to receive in common with other people interested in the matter their respective shares in the distribution of wood.

23. They shall preserve also their pasture rights over the parochial lands of Raon-sur-Plaine, in case they should have occasion to claim them, and also the right of using the roads belonging to the parish without indemnity.

24. In case hereafter, in consequence of steps taken either by the French Government or by the municipal authorities of Raon-sur-Plaine, the enjoyment of the aforesaid rights belonging, as it has been shown, to the inhabitants of the detached portions should be made impossible, or should become more difficult or limited, the French authorities shall cause a sum of money equal to the full value of the damage incurred to be paid to them.

25. The parish of Sancy shall continue in the future to be authorized to carry in carts along the frontier-line and upon the territory of the German parish of Lommerange, the wood felled at regular intervals in the forests of Haie-de-Ville and Haie-Chaperon which belong to it, upon the payment of compensation the amount of which shall be settled on each occasion according to the damage done by the carts.

26. In case the amount of the compensation should not be amicably agreed upon, even with the assistance of experts chosen by the interested parties, it shall be settled by the tribunals (*voies de droit*).

27. The preservation of the boundary stones and other

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marks determining the frontier shall be entrusted to the care of the local authorities, who shall state by means of Procès-Verbal, which they shall transmit to the higher authorities, such alterations as the boundary may have undergone.

28. French and German Commissioners, appointed beforehand by their respective Governments, will be charged with the supervision of the boundary marks: they will note in each particular case the necessity of replacing such stones as shall have been damaged, or of putting back into their former position such as shall have been displaced. The expense of the works to be executed in those cases shall be borne equally by both parties.

29. The German authorities shall provide and place in position all boundary marks from the frontier of Luxemburg to the Stone No. 2008 on the road to Donou; the French authorities shall undertake to provide and to place all boundary marks comprised between the Stone No. 2009 and the Swiss frontier. Upon the accounts being presented, half the amount of the expenses shall be refunded, as the case may be, either to the German or to the French Government.

30. In case the written description of the frontier or of the boundary register should upon certain points disagree with the maps annexed to the present Procès-Verbal, those maps shall be evidence, and the text shall upon such points be considered at fault and erroneous.

31. The present Procès-Verbal shall take effect as soon as it shall have been approved by both Governments, and the exchange of approvals shall have taken place. In testimony whereof the above-mentioned members of the Commission have signed the said Procès-Verbal in duplicate, each of which includes a French and a German text, and have affixed to it their respective stamps.

Done at Metz, April 26th, 1877.

GAL. DOUTRILAINE.
LAUSSEDAT.
BOUVIER.
STRANTZ.
RHEIN.
BRUCE.

[Here follow Tables A, B, and C.]

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TABLEAU A.—*Des Chemins situés au long de la Frontière Franco-Allemande et déclarés neutres au point de vue douanier, aux termes de l'Article 3 du Procès-Verbal de Délimitation.*

No. d'Ordre.	Numéros des bornes entre lesquelles sont compris les chemins.		Longueur approximative des chemins en mètres.	Communes Françaises limitrophes.	Communes Allemandes limitrophes.
	Origine.	Fin.			
Arrondissement de Briey.					
1	20	22	180 ^m	Thil	Redange.
2	46	47	160	Villerupt	Russange.
3	54	55	180	Villerupt	Russange.
4	65	88	1,330	Villerupt	Audun-le-Tiche.
5	90	105	850	Villerupt	Audun-le-Tiche.
6	114	121	2,030	Crunes	Audun-le-Tiche.
7	145	146	160	Beuvillers	Bassompierre-Boulange.
8	169	174	1,360	Beuvillers et Sancy	Bassompierre-Boulange.
9	241	243	330	Trieux	Lommerange.
10	255	267	1,150	Avril	Lommerange.
11	297	303	560	Avril	Moyeuvre-Grande.
12	331	340	560	Briey	Moyeuvre-Grande.
13	588	611	4,650	Saint-Marcel et Bruville	Rezonville et Vionville.
14	640	642	360	Tronville	Vionville.
15	649	652	480	Tronville	Vionville.
16	681	685	640	Chambley et Onville	Gorze.
17	700	709	510	Onville	Gorze.
Arrondissement de Nancy.					
18	843	852	660	Vittonville.. ..	Lorry-Mardigny.
19	868	871	860	Bouxières-sous-Froidemont	Lorry-Mardigny.
20	899	903	810	Bouxières-sous-Froidemont	Cheminot-Longeville.
21	1,034	1,035	290	Thezey-Saint-Martin	Foville.
22	1,035	1,036	230	Thezey-Saint-Martin	Foville.
22 ^{bis}	1,036	1,036	70	Thezey-Saint-Martin	Alaincourt.
23	1,053	1,054	120	Thezey-Saint-Martin	Craincourt.
Arrondissement de Lunéville.					
24	1,299	1,302	400	Bezange-la-Grande	Salonne.
25	1,368	1,369	290	Juvrecourt.. ..	Vic.
26	1,391	1,398	2,080	Rechicourt-la-Petite	Bezange-la-Petite.
27	1,401	1,401	160	Coincourt	Bezange-la-Petite.

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No. d'Ordre.	Numéros des bornes entre lesquelles sont compris les chemins.		Longueur approximative des chemins en mètres.	Communes Françaises limitrophes.	Communes Allemandes limitrophes.
	Origine.	Fin.			
28	1,408	1,411	1,100	Coincourt	Moncourt.
29	1,416	1,417	150	Xures	Moncourt.
30	1,458	1,463	1,150	Vaucourt	La Garde.
31	1,587	1,592	1,000	Igney et Gogney ..	Foulcrey.
32	1,676	1,691	1,380	Bertrambois	Niederhoff.
33	1,708	1,830	10,300	Bertrambois	Lafrimbole et Turquestein.

Arrondissement de Saint-Dié.

34	996	1,997	170	Raon-les-Leau et Raon-sur-Plaine	Raon-les-Leau et Raon sur-Plaine.
35	2,008	2,010	520	Raon-sur-Plaine ..	Raon-sur-Plaine.
36	2,238	2,249	770	Belval	Plaine et Saulxures.
37	2,266	2,268	140	Saint-Stail.	Saulxures.
38	2,347	2,348	280	La Grande-Fosse ..	Saales.
39	3,355	2,361	1,080	Coitroy-la-Grande ..	Saales.
40	2,442	2,443	150	Lubine	Urbeis.

Arrondissement de Belfort.

41	3,719	3,719	100	Vauthiermont ..	Saint Cosme.
42	3,812	3,815	430	Foussemagne ..	Chevannes-sur-l'Étang.

TABLEAU B.—*Des Ponts situés sur des Cours d'Eau mitoyens dont la Construction en l'Entretien sont à la charge l'Administration Française, aux termes de l'Article 8 du Procès-Verbal de Délimitation.*

Nos. d'Ordre.	Communes Riveraines.		Description.
	France.	Allemagne.	
1	Éply	Cheminot ..	Pont sur le Moince, près de la borne 924, sur le chemin d'Éply à Cheminot.
2	Mailly	Saint-Jure, Al-lemont, Res-saincourt	Pont sur en fossé, près de la borne 964 (croix gravée sur une pierre du pont), sur le chemin de Mailly à Ressaincourt.
3	Arraye et Han	Ajoncourt. ..	Pont sur la Seille, près la borne 1,111, sur le chemin d'Arraye à Ajoncourt.
4	Brin	Bioncourt. ..	Pont sur la Seille, près la borne 1,227, sur le Chemin de Brin à Bioncourt.

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Nos. d'Ordre.	Communes Riveraines.		Description.
	France.	Allemagne.	
5	Remoncourt ..	Moussey ..	Pont sur le Remiremont, près de la borne 1,521, sur le chemin de la Sérole (ferme) à Moussey.
6	La Chapelle-sous-Rougemont ..	Étiembes ..	Pont sur la Rapène, près de la borne 3,678, sur le chemin de la Chapelle à Étiembes.
7	Lepuix ..	Hindlingen ..	Pont sur la Suarcine, près de la borne 3,998, sur le chemin de Lepuix à Hindlingen.
8	Réchézy ..	Uberstrass ..	Pont sur la Suarcine, près de la borne 4,022, sur le chemin de Réchézy à Uberstrass.

TABLEAU C.—*Des Ponts situés sur des Cours d'Eau mitoyens dont la Construction et l'Entretien sont à la charge l'Administration de l'Alsace-Lorraine, aux termes de l'Article 8 du Procès Verbal de Délimitation.*

Nos. d'Ordre.	Communes Riveraines.		Description.
	France.	Allemagne.	
1	Les Menils ..	Cheminot ..	Pont sur la Seille, près de la borne 910, sur le chemin de Pont-à-Mouisson-à-Louvigny.
2	Éply ..	Louvigny ..	Pont sur le Moince, près de la borne 941, sur le chemin d'Éply à Louvigny.
3	Létricourt ..	Aulnois - sur-Seille	Pont sur la Seille, près de la borne 1,074, sur le chemin de Pont-à-Mousson à Aulnois-sur-Seille.
4	Lanfroicourt.	Manhoué ..	Pont sur la Seille, près de la borne 1,183, sur le chemin de Lanfroicourt à Manhoué.
5	Moncel - sur-Seille	Pettoncourt ..	Pont sur la Seille, près de la borne 1,256, sur le chemin de Moncel-sur-Seille à Pettoncourt.
6	Rougemont ..	Massevaux ..	Pont sur le ruisseau le Coq, entre les bornes 3,618 et 3,619, sur le chemin de Leval à Massevaux.
7	Montreux-Château	Montreux-Vieux	Pont sur le Saint-Nicolas, près de la borne 3,838, sur le chemin de Montreux-Château à Montreux-Vieux.
8	Lepuix ..	Friessen ..	Pont sur la Suarcine, près de la borne 4,007, sur le chemin de Lepuix à Friessen.
9	Réchézy ..	Seppois-le-Bas	Pont sur la Suarcine, près de la borne 4,024, sur la route de Montbéliard à Bâle.

TREATY between Austria-Hungary and Germany, modifying Article V of the Treaty of Peace between Austria and Prussia of 23rd August, 1866 (No. 388), respecting the Northern Districts of Schleswig. Signed at Vienna, 11th October, 1878.

[Ratifications exchanged January 11th, 1879.]

(Translation.)

THE provisions contained in Article V of the Peace concluded at Prague on the 23rd August, 1866 (No. 388) between His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, and His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, and Apostolic King of Hungary, concerning the manner of effecting a retrocession of the northern districts of Schleswig to Denmark, not having been yet carried out according to the terms of the Treaty;

His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, having made known the value which he would attach to the removal of this form of the Peace;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary having on the other side recognized the difficulties which present themselves to the carrying out the principles laid down in that Article;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary having finally been graciously pleased to give a proof of his wish to tighten still more the bonds of friendship which exist between the two Powers;

The High Contracting Parties have unanimously recognized the necessity of allowing a revision of the above-named Article to take place;

His Majesty the German Emperor and King of Prussia and His Majesty the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary have appointed as their Representatives for this purpose:

For His Majesty the German Emperor and King of Prussia, the Prince Henry VII of Reuss, His Majesty's Ambassador and General-Adjutant;

For His Majesty the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, the Count Julius Andrassy of Csik-Szent-Király and Kraszna-Horka, His Majesty's Minister for the Imperial Household and for Foreign Affairs;

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Who, having duly exhibited their full powers in proper form, have agreed to the following Articles:—

ART. I. The Union laid down in the Peace concluded at Prague between His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia, and His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia and King of Hungary, on the 23rd August, 1866 (No. 388), by which a form is added to the transfer to His Majesty the King of Prussia of the rights of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria over the Duchies of Holstein and Schleswig acquired by the Vienna Treaty of Peace of 30th October, 1864 (No. 367), is hereby cancelled, so that the words in Article V of the above-named Treaty of the 23rd August, 1876 (No. 388):—"With the condition that the population of the northern districts of Schleswig shall be ceded to Denmark if by a free vote they express a wish to be united to Denmark," shall be annulled.

ART. II. The ratifications of the present Treaty shall be exchanged at Vienna within a period of three months, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty, and sealed it with the seal of their arms.

Done at Vienna, the 11th October, 1878.

(L.S.) H. VII REUSS.

(L.S.) ANDRÁSSY.

DECLARATION between France and Italy, respecting the Interpretation of Article III of the Boundary Convention between France and Sardinia of 7th March, 1861 (No. 329). (Property of Communes; Savoy and Nice.) Signed at Florence, 7th November, and at Rome, 9th November, 1878.

[See "State Papers," vol. lxix, p. 671.]

DECLARATION between France and Spain, defining the Jurisdiction of the two Countries in the Waters of the Bay of Figuer, in completion of the Treaty of Limits of 2nd December, 1856 (No. 275), and the Additional Articles of 31st March, 1859, and 11th July, 1868 (No. 411). Signed at Bayonne, 30th March, 1879.

(The Plan annexed to this Declaration was not published with it.)

[See "State Papers," vol. lxx, p. 176.]

IMPERIAL RESCRIPT addressed by the Sultan of Turkey to Prince Alexander on his Election as Prince of Bulgaria. 25th July, 1879.

(Translation.)

To Prince Alexander, raised to the dignity of Prince of Bulgaria, be it known:—

By the terms of Article III of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), the Assembly recently convoked at Tirnova for the purpose of proceeding to choice of a Prince for Bulgaria, which, while forming an integral part of our Empire, has lately been erected into a Principality, has made choice of your Highness, having regard to the capacity, intelligence, the deep knowledge of affairs, and the uprightness, all of which qualities characterize your person :

This choice, submitted to my Imperial sanction, having been also approved, the Principality of Bulgaria, with its limits indicated in the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), has been entrusted to the capacity and intelligence of your Highness. And, conformably with my orders, this Imperial Rescript is issued from my Imperial Divan to make public and well known the high charge which has been confided to you :

Therefore I have reason to expect your Highness, in your high intelligence and in conformity with the duties which fall to your charge, will always respect the rights of our suzerainty

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over the Principality which forms an integral part of our Empire, as has just been stated above; that you will apply yourself unceasingly to consolidate and develop the ties which attach the said Principality to our Empire. Also, while always preserving inviolate the dispositions of the said Treaty, you will give all your solicitude to the development of the prosperity and the tranquillity of the country, and you will watch ~~over the good administration~~, the well-being, and the preservation of the religious, political, and civil rights of all the inhabitants, whether Mussulmans or non-Mussulmans, in conformity with the principles of a real equality.

Given, the 5 Chaban, 1296 (July 25, 1879).

FIRMAN of the Sultan granting various Privileges to the Khedive of Egypt. 2nd August, 1879.

[See "Hertslet's Treaties," vol. xv, p. 581.]

CONVENTION concluded between the Netherland and Prussian Commissioners, defining the Limits of the Communes of Winterswyk and Barlo. Signed at Winterswyk, 22nd August, 1879.

[See Index, vol. iii, p. 2274; and "Marten's Treaties," 2nd Series, vol. viii, p. 136.]

CONVENTION between Belgium and the Netherlands, respecting the improvement of the Canal from Ghent to Terneuze, &c. Signed at Brussels, 31st October, 1879.

[See Nos. 183, 184, 185, and 195; and "Marten's Treaties," 2nd Series, vol. viii, p. 152.]

EGYPTIAN LAW of Liquidation. 17th July, 1880.

[See "Hertslet's Treaties," vol. xv, p. 146.]

*CONVENTION between France and Switzerland, respecting
Frontier Fisheries. 28th December, 1880.*

[Modified by Declaration of 14th April, 1888, see p. 3280.]

*AGREEMENT between Germany and the Free City of
Hamburg, for the Incorporation of Hamburg within the
German Customs Union, with the exception of certain
Districts. 25th May, 1881.*

(Translation.)

THE following Agreement has been concluded between the Royal Prussian Finance Minister Bitter and the Imperial State Secretary of the Imperial Treasury Schölz, as representatives of the Imperial Chancellor of the one side, and the Commissioners appointed by the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Senator Dr. Versmann, Senator O'Swald, and Minister Resident Dr. Krüger, of the other side, with the reservation of the consent of the Imperial Chancellor and the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg in regard to the terms under which the incorporation of Hamburg shall take place.*

1. The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg is prepared to enter with its whole territory into the German Customs Union with the exception of the after-mentioned districts.

Respecting this district, which shall perpetually remain to the City of Hamburg as a free port, Article XXXIV† of the Imperial Constitution shall continue in force, with the result that the right of that district to remain a free port cannot be withdrawn or lessened without the consent of Hamburg.

The free port district comprises the Northern Elbe at Ham-

* See note, p. 3256.

† Vol. iii, p. 1939.

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burg, the port and quay buildings with a portion of the adjoining streets and house blocks, and those islands situated in the river opposite the town, including Steinwärder. Within this free port district, the excise supervision of which is wholly to be carried on from the outside, the movement of ships and merchandise will be free from all customs control, and the unlimited establishment of industrial manufactures will be allowed.

The boundaries of the free port district will be formed on the north and east by the railway station and line of the Venlo-Hamburg Railway. On the south and west the limit may be extended at the option of Hamburg up to the new customs boundary on the Lower Elbe which was agreed to by the Bundesrath in connection with the incorporation of Altona. In addition, it is left to the option of Hamburg whether the peninsula which is divided from the town by the line of canals which leads from the inner to the upper harbour, or any part thereof which may be deemed necessary by the Hamburg authorities, shall be included in the free port district. The buildings on the northern side of the Elbe which are situated within the free port district shall not be employed as dwelling houses, with the exception of those necessary for storekeepers, harbour, customs, and police officials, and, further, they shall not be used for retail purposes.

That portion of the free port territory situated on the southern bank of the Elbe, as much thereof as pertains to the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, shall not be built upon otherwise than is urgently necessary for manufacturing and control purposes, and shall not be used for shops or dwelling houses. Those dwellings and shops now situated at the southern part of the free port district shall be abolished if they are not required for the foregoing purposes. Consideration is also to be given by Hamburg to the introduction of regulations which may further the customs control.

The docks at Cuxhaven remain, as heretofore, outside the limits of the Customs Union.

The *Zollvereinsniederlage* shall be closed after the incorporation (§ 7) is carried out.

2. The industrial establishments working for export which desire to manufacture foreign materials free of duty shall in future be located in the free port district. Those establishments now situated in the future customs territory which, on

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account of their great extent, cannot be transferred to the free port district, shall be permitted for some time longer to manufacture their articles as before, and under the most advantageous conditions which can be granted, in order to enable them to compete with foreign rivalry.

The before-mentioned industrial establishments include—

- a. Spirit refineries.
- b. Corn distilleries which are combined with yeast manufacturing factories working for export.
- c. Grease refineries working for export.
- d. Rice shelling mills.
- e. Slaughter houses for export.
- f. Dockyards situated in the future customs territory.
- g. A sugar manufactory which manufactures from cane-sugar.

3. The entire customs and duty management within Hamburg territory shall be administered by Hamburg authorities and Hamburg officials, with the exception of the surrounded territory situated in Holstein, and the custom house at Cuxhaven, required for the sea and Elbe commerce crossing the customs limit on the Lower Elbe.

Among the Hamburg customs officials, exceptions shall for a certain limited period be made as to the employment of military privileged persons.

The cost of the administration department is to be defrayed by Hamburg. The compensation sums to the other officials shall be fixed after due consideration of the different circumstances.

The existing customs houses and examining rooms, so far as they are not abolished, shall become Hamburg property free of charge.

The question of using such buildings as are no longer required for customs purposes, and are not destroyed for the free port establishments, shall be mutually settled.

The pensions of the Hamburg officials of the Indirect Taxation Department who are compelled to resign shall be provided by the Customs Union.

4. A special regulation will be issued in respect to the management of customs in that part of the Hamburg port and in the warehouses which are situated in the customs territory, and will also contain a plan for simplifying and shortening as

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much as is possible the customs administration, the local conditions of ebb, flood, drift ice, &c., &c., being carefully taken into consideration.

5. The regulations for the administration of the Customs Union laws shall undergo revision, in respect to their application to Hamburg, in such a manner that the trade and commerce of that place shall only be burdened with such formalities as may be unavoidably necessary for fiscal interests, and the conditions which prevail at that place shall be taken into special consideration.

So far as the rules of the Customs Union Law are contrary to the realisation of this design, a change in the rules shall be proposed, and, in any case, it is granted that the special privileges which were allowed to the Free and Hanseatic City of Lubeck, both as to the regulations and the administration, shall also be granted to Hamburg.

6. The German Empire shall bear a part of the costs of buildings, projects, establishments, and compensation which are required for the incorporation of Hamburg and the alteration in the existing trade and commerce establishments, up to the maximum sum of forty million marks.

Respecting the fixing of the sum to be paid by the Empire, the Senate shall, as soon as possible, prepare a general plan, with a general estimate of the costs, and shall come to a general understanding with the Imperial Government thereupon.

Of the total costs sanctioned by the Senate and the *Burgerschaft*, the half shall form the contribution to be paid by the Imperial Government, provided that it does not amount to more than forty million marks. This contribution shall be paid to the Hamburg Exchequer within ten years in equal annual amounts, of which the first shall be deemed due one year after the notice of the before-mentioned resolution of the Senate and *Burgerschaft* has been given, and the further amounts on each notice of the Hamburg Government that the works are proceeding in the manner stipulated.

7. The Senate of Hamburg shall as quickly as possible complete the buildings and establishments necessary for the carrying out of the incorporation.

The incorporation of the City and of the territory of Hamburg, in accordance with § 1 of this Agreement, shall take place after the 1st of October, 1888, on a day fixed by the *Bundesrath*.

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8. With respect to the amount resulting from the taxes to be levied upon such goods as may be already in the district upon the date of incorporation, the principles are to be adopted which were acted upon at the incorporation of Lubeck.

9. In the event of the abolition by the Bundesrath of the chief joint office of the German Customs Union, the management of it shall be taken in hand by Prussia until the incorporation of Hamburg with the German Customs Union.

10. The above Agreement, after having received the consent before mentioned, shall be submitted for the sanction of the Bundesrath.

As soon as this sanction is given, the Senate shall make the proposal to the Bundesrath which is provided for in Article LIV of the Constitution,* namely, to agree to the incorporation of Hamburg in the German Customs Union in accordance with the Treaty made.

It is, however, expressly reserved that the resolution arrived at by the Bundesrath shall only come into operation after the Reichstag has sanctioned the agreement in regard to the contribution by the Empire of the costs towards the incorporation.

25th May, 1881.

(L.S.) BITTER.

(L.S.) SCHOLZ.

(L.S.) VERSMANN.

(L.S.) W. O'SWALD.

(L.S.) KRÜGER.

[A German Law for the incorporation of Hamburg within the German Customs Union was passed on the 16th February, 1882, and another Law was passed on the 31st March, 1885, respecting the contribution of the Empire to the cost of the accession of the Free City of Bremen to the German Zollverein. (Reichs-Gesetzblatt, No. 11, 7th April, 1885). Hamburg and Bremen were included within the German Customs Union on the 15th October, 1888.]

* Vol. iii, p. 1939.

PROTOCOL signed by the Representatives of the Powers Signatories of the Règlement Organique for the Lebanon of 9th June, 1861; of the Protocols of 6th September, 1864;† 27th July, 1868;‡ and 22nd April, 1873§, declaring the maintenance of the dispositions of the two latter Protocols, relative to the term of 10 years assigned to the powers of the Governor, as well as the maintenance of the other Protocols, except as in so far as they may have been subsequently modified. (Appointment of Wassa Pasha Governor of the Lebanon for 10 years.) Constantinople, 8th May, 1883.||*

[These Documents are referred to for convenience of reference, but they are not given in this work, as they have no reference to the "Map of Europe."]

DECLARATION of the King of the Netherlands, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, announcing the dismantling of the Fortress of Luxemburg, in execution of Article V of the Treaty of London of 11th May, 1867 (No. 405)—22nd May, 1883.

(Translation.)

WE William III, by the Grace of God, King of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange-Nassau, Grand-Duke of Luxemburg, &c., &c., &c.:

Whereas a Treaty was signed at London, on the 11th of May, 1867 (No. 405), between our Plenipotentiaries and the Plenipotentiaries of their Majesties the Emperor of Austria, the King of the Belgians, the Emperor of the French, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,

* "State Papers," vol. li, p. 287.

† "State Papers," vol. lxi, p. 1023.

‡ "State Papers," vol. lxi, p. 1029.

§ "State Papers," vol. lxiii, p. 227.

|| "State Papers," vol. lxxiv, p. 932.

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the King of Italy, the King of Prussia, and the Emperor of All the Russias ;

Whereas by the terms of Article III of the said Treaty the town of Luxemburg, considered until then under military government as a German federal fortress, should cease to be a fortified town ; and whereas by Article V of the same Act the said fortified place should be converted into an open town by means of such dismantling as we should judge sufficient for the fulfilment of the intentions of the High Contracting Parties, expressed in Article III of the same Treaty ;

Having considered the plans, reports, and documents which have been submitted to us at different times by our Government of the Grand Duchy, and after having assured ourselves of the actual condition of the places resulting from the important works which extend over all the points in the region of the former fortress ;

We declare :

In execution of the dispositions of Article V aforesaid, that the obligations resulting from the said Treaty for the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg have been fully satisfied, and that the intentions of the High Contracting Parties have been loyally fulfilled.

In faith of which we have signed these presents and have charged our Minister of State, President of our Government of the Grand Duchy, to make it known to the Powers who co-operated in the Treaty of London of the 11th May, 1867 (No. 405).

Given at our Castle of Walferdange, the 22nd of May, 1883.

WILLIAM.

F. DE BLOCHAUSEN, Minister of State,
President of the Government.

DECLARATION between Belgium and the Netherlands, modifying Article 6 of the Regulations of 20th May, 1843, relating to the Navigation of the Scheldt. Signed at The Hague, 3rd April, 1884.

[See " State Papers," vols. xxxvii, p. 1249, and lxxv,
p. 321.]

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PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES between the Representatives of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, respecting the modifications necessary in the Egyptian Law of Liquidation of 17th July, 1880.† [Finances of Egypt; Indemnities; Suez Canal; Integrity of Egypt; Rights of the Sultan; Sanitary Affairs; and Public Debt.] London, 28th June—2nd August, 1884.‡*

ANALYSIS OF PROTOCOLS.

PROTOCOL.

No. 1. Object and Scope of Conference: "To examine in common "whether modifications are necessary in the *Egyptian* Law of "Liquidation, and, if so, what their nature should be." Full Powers. Earl Granville chosen President. Financial advisers, as also Blum Pasha and Tigrane Pasha, invited to attend the sitting. Secretaries, Mr. Philip Currie and Count d'Aubigny, Secrecy to be observed with regard to deliberations. Preliminary meeting of Financial Commission to take place on 1st July. Allusion to an English Report on the Finances of *Egypt* drawn up by a Committee. Annex A, Proposals relative to the Finances of Egypt viz:—

- (1.) England to guarantee loan of 8,000,000*l.*, with interest and sinking fund, 4½ per cent.
- (2.) Interest on various Egyptian loans to be reduced by ½ per cent.
- (3.) All their sinking funds to be suspended.
- (4.) Surplus revenue to go—one-half to next year's account, the other to redemption of loans.
- (5.) Charge for Army of Occupation not to exceed 300,000*l.* a year.

London, 28th June, 1884.

* The Plenipotentiaries were—

For Great Britain :	{ Earl Granville. Mr. Childers.
„ Austria-Hungary :	Count Karolyi.
„ France :	M. Waddington.
„ Germany :	Count Münster.
„ Italy :	Count Nigra.
„ Russia :	Baron de Staal.
„ Turkey :	Musurus Pasha.

† For copy of this Law, in the French language, see "Hertslet's Treaties," vol. xv, p. 146.

‡ For full version of these Protocols in the French language, see "State Papers," vol. lxxv, p. 189.

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No. 2. Financial Advisers of *German, Austro-Hungarian, French, Italian, and Russian* Plenipotentiaries, as also Sir J. Carmichael, Blum Pasha, and Tigrane Pasha, attend the sitting. Telegram read from a Committee in Alexandria asking for prompt payment of Indemnities awarded by International Commission. Mr. Childers reads Report showing the result of the labours of the Financial Commission. Count Münster proposes the adjournment of the discussion as the Report has not been distributed.

London, 22nd July, 1884.

No. 3. Financial Advisers present. *French* note presented containing basis of a proposed financial agreement, viz. :—Draft Budget presented by French Delegates to be provisional Budget in force for two years ; English Government to cause inquiry to be made into land tax ; Conference to determine the Budget for 1887 ; Powers to guarantee loans (Annex). *French* Plenipotentiary reads the note and the *English* objections to it are read by Mr. Childers. Remarks by Earl Granville, and proposal by Mr. Childers, viz. :—Loan of 8,000,000*l.* without guarantee, out of which Indemnities are to be paid ; next charge to be administrative expenses, cost of Army of Occupation, and Moukabala ; third charge to be interest of Privileged, Unified, and Suez Loans, &c. ; Surplus to go—one-half to sinking funds, the other to the Egyptian Government ; Deficit to be borne by creditors. Earl Granville states that, notwithstanding the inconvenience of putting forward two counter-proposals (*i.e.*, French proposal and English proposal brought forward in the present sitting and described above), he has decided to communicate a third proposal. This is then read by Mr. Childers and is to the following effect : Reduction of interest to continue for ten years only, a Conference then to reconsider state of Egyptian finance ; England to guarantee only so much of Loan as is not required to pay indemnities—the latter to be paid in unguaranteed pre-Preference Stock. The President, considering immediate discussion would be premature, proposes adjournment to 28th July. Earl Granville is of opinion that the order of discussion should be : 1st. English proposal and amendments. *Italian* Plenipotentiary thinks order should be : 1st. Original *English* proposal (see Annex to Protocol 2) ; 2nd. *French* counter-proposal (as described above) ; 3rd. Two *English* amendments (as described above). Annex *French* note, dated 23rd July 1884, in reply to *English* proposals.

London, 24th July, 1884.

No. 4. Financial Advisers present. First *English* proposal under discussion. *French* statement. Mr. Childers' reply. *German* Plenipotentiary, in view of the want of agreement of the two Powers most interested, states his unwillingness to pronounce his opinion until he learns the views of his colleagues. Statements by Plenipotentiaries of *Austria, Italy, Russia, and Turkey*. President thanks *Turkish* Plenipotentiary for his support, but is of

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opinion that the right of the European Powers to give advice on the affairs of *Egypt* cannot be denied, and that this can be done without contravention of the rights of the Sultan. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiary maintains that no modification with regard to the finances, administration, or integrity of *Egypt* can be made without the consent of the Sublime Porte. No agreement amongst the Powers is valid without the consent of the Sublime Porte. Porte reserves to itself full liberty of action as regards the Suez Canal and the neutralization of *Egypt* referred to by the French Plenipotentiary. Count Károlyi states that his Government recognize the rights of the Porte which result from the Treaties and Firmans respecting *Egypt*. *Italian*, *German*, and *Russian* Plenipotentiaries adhere to declaration of their *Austrian* colleague. Earl Granville desires to maintain all the promises made to the Sultan by Her Majesty's Government, and M. Waddington expresses himself in the same sense. Amendments to *English* and *French* proposals to be discussed. Sitting suspended for an hour. Mr. Childers explains the second *English* proposal, which could be put into execution without touching the Law of Liquidation, and, after discussion, the *French* Plenipotentiary accepts it *ad referendum*. French Plenipotentiary thinks it desirable to come to a decision upon the question of the Indemnities. Commission has recognized the necessity of paying these Indemnities. Mr. Childers declares the impossibility of discussing the question separately. *German* Plenipotentiary raises the *Egyptian* Sanitary Question. President declares the subject to be beyond the scope of the Conference.

London, 28th July, 1884.

- No. 5. Financial Advisers present. *Italian* Government is of opinion that the reduction of interest should not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Mr. Childers is of opinion that a favourable answer might be returned on this point. Text of *British* proposal read. In the absence of instructions the Plenipotentiaries cannot give an opinion on the scheme. Note drawn up by M. de Blignières in reply to Note of Sir E. Baring (Annex) laid before Commission. *Russian* Plenipotentiary asks for the admission of a *Russian* Delegate on the Commission of the Public Debt in *Egypt*. President cannot reply until the request has been examined. *Ottoman* Plenipotentiary also expresses the wish of his Government to be represented on the Commission. The Sublime Porte claims a share in the international supervision of the finances of *Egypt*, not as a creditor but as the Sovereign of an indebted country. *German* Plenipotentiary considers that if a *Russian* Commissioner were admitted his Government should also be represented. (Annex.) Sir E. Baring's Note respecting Memorandum of M. de Blignières.

London, 29th July, 1884.

- No. 6. Financial Advisers present. *French* Plenipotentiary not yet in possession of instructions to reply to *English* proposals. In

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reply to *Italian* Plenipotentiary the President states that after three years a fresh Conference will be convened for a rearrangement of the question. Mr. Childers states that the bonds to be given to those who have been awarded Indemnities would be paid at once, and at their nominal value. Sir E. Baring, considering it useless to prolong the discussion of points upon which agreement is impossible, refrains from replying to the observations contained in M. de Blignières' Note presented to the Conference at the last sitting. *German* Plenipotentiary returns to the Sanitary Question, and states that his Government does not concur in the views of the President. President regrets his inability to alter his view. *Austrian*, *French*, and *Italian* Plenipotentiaries support their *German* colleague. President reads the terms of the invitation to the Conference, and maintains that the limits laid down cannot be overstepped. *Turkish* Plenipotentiary expresses his agreement with the President. President points out that it is solely as a matter of form that he has insisted on excluding the question, and expresses his readiness to examine any proposals, either directly with the Governments concerned or in another Conference.

London, 31st July, 1884.

- No. 7. Financial advisers present. M. Waddington presents modifications of last *English* proposal. President states that the final *French* proposal has received his most careful consideration, but that he must declare that it has not been possible to find, at this Conference, a basis for the settlement of *Egyptian* finance. Upon the question of adjournment, the *French* Plenipotentiary suggests that the Conference should be adjourned till 20th October, but the President proposes an indefinite adjournment. *Italian* Plenipotentiary declares that with regard to future action his Government does not consider itself bound by the opinions expressed in its name in the Conference. *French* Plenipotentiary insists upon his proposal respecting the adjournment being put to the vote. The other Plenipotentiaries express their willingness to accept the date if all the Governments were agreed, but the President repeats that he cannot consent to a fixed adjournment. *Russian* Plenipotentiary calls attention to his proposal with regard to the Commission of the Debt, but the President, in view of the decision to adjourn, cannot reopen the discussion. M. Waddington wishes to make a proposal for the settlement of the Indemnities. On the President maintaining that the question cannot be discussed, the *French* Plenipotentiary enters a protest, and lays his proposal (Annex) on the table. Conference adjourned *sine die*.

London, 2nd August, 1884.

ARRANGEMENT between France and Switzerland, modifying the Convention of 28th December, 1880, respecting Frontier Fisheries. 9th December, 1884.

[Abrogated by Arrangement of 14th April, 1888, see p. 3280.]

*DECLARATION of the Powers assembled in Conference at Berlin, applying the General Principles of the Congress of Vienna of 1815, relative to the Free Navigation of Rivers (No. 11), to the Rivers Congo and Niger and their Affluents. 26th February, 1885.**

Preamble.

(Translation.)

The Plenipotentiaries, being provided with full powers, which have been found in good and due form, have successively discussed and adopted :—

* * * * *

Congo.

4. An Act of Navigation for the Congo, which, while having regard to local circumstances, extends to this river, its affluents, and the waters in its system ("eaux qui leur sont assimilées"), the general principles enunciated in Articles CVIII and CXVI of the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna (No. 11), and intended to regulate, as between the Signatory Powers of that Act, the free navigation of the waterways separating or traversing several States, these said principles having since then been applied by agreement to certain rivers of Europe and America, but especially to the Danube, with the modifications stipulated by the Treaties of Paris (1856, No. 264), of Berlin (1878, No. 530), and of London (1871, No. 439, and 1883, No. 599).

Niger.

5. An Act of Navigation for the Niger, which, while likewise having regard to local circumstances, extends to this river and its affluents the same principles as set forth in Articles

* For a complete copy of the General Act of the Conference of Berlin, see Parliamentary Paper, "*Africa, No. 3 (1886).*"

CVIII and CXVI of the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna (No. 11).

[A Portuguese Decree, granting to the vessels of all nations the free navigation of the Zambesi and Shiré, in so far as they were under the sovereignty, protectorate, or influence of Portugal, was (in accordance with the *modus vivendi* of 14th November, 1890) issued from Lisbon on the 18th November, 1890, see Parliamentary Paper, "Africa, No. 2, 1890-91."]

*DECLARATION of the Powers assembled in Conference at Berlin on the Affairs of Africa, relative to the Suppression of the Slave Trade by Land and Sea. 26th February, 1885.**

CHAPTER II.—*Declaration relative to the Slave Trade.*

* * * * *

(Translation.)

ART. IX. Seeing that trading in slaves is forbidden in conformity with the principles of international law as recognised by the Signatory Powers, and seeing also that the operations which, by sea or land, furnish slaves to trade, ought likewise to be regarded as forbidden, the Powers which do or shall exercise sovereign rights or influence in the territories forming the Conventional basin of the Congo, declare that these territories may not serve as a market or means of transit for the trade in slaves, of whatever race they may be. Each of the Powers binds itself to employ all the means at its disposal for putting an end to this trade, and for punishing those who engage in it.

CONVENTION AND DECLARATION between the Governments of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, relative to the Finances of Egypt and the Free Navigation of the Suez Canal. Signed at London, 18th and 27th March, 1885.

[See "Hertslet's Treaties," vol. xvii, pp. 349, 352.]

* For a complete copy of the General Act of the Conference of Berlin, see Parliamentary Papers, "Africa, No. 3 (1886)."

APPENDIX.

SWISS NOTE, declaring that the proposed Additional Articles to the Geneva Convention of 22nd August, 1864, relative to the treatment of the Sick and Wounded in Armies in the Field, do not form an integral part of that Convention. Berne, 12th May, 1885.

On the 22nd August, 1864, a Convention was concluded at Geneva between various foreign Powers relative to the treatment of sick and wounded in time of war (**No. 365**).

Great Britain acceded to this Convention on the 18th February, 1865 (**No. 368**).

On the 20th October, 1868, certain Articles additional to this Convention were drawn up at a Conference held at Geneva, and were signed, under the reserve of the approval of their respective Governments, by the Representatives of North Germany, Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, and Würtemberg (**No. 413**).

Neutrality of Hospital-ships.

These Articles being referred for the approval of the various Governments, some modification in Article IX, concerning the capture of hospital-ships, was suggested by France and agreed to by Great Britain; and the Governments of France and Great Britain mutually agreed as to the interpretation to be given to Article X, respecting the neutrality of hospital-ships.

This modification of Article IX and interpretation of Article X is believed to have been accepted by the other Powers with the exception of Germany.

Flags for Hospital-ships.

Russia subsequently proposed that a new paragraph should be substituted for the second paragraph of Article XII, relative to flags for hospital-ships; and in this Great Britain eventually signified her concurrence, and it is believed that France and Italy did so also.

The proposed Additional Articles were provisionally accepted, in July, 1870, by France and Germany, and acted upon, it is believed, during the War of 1870, 1871.

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Substitution by Turkey of the Crescent for the Cross.

In 1877 an alteration was proposed in these Additional Articles by the Sublime Porte, which announced its intention of substituting a Red Crescent for a Red Cross, to be used during her war with Russia.

But the only document on this subject which has been officially published in England is the text of the Convention of 1864 (**No. 365**), together with the accession of Her Majesty's Government, dated the 18th February (3rd March), 1865 (**No. 368**).

In May, 1885, Her Majesty's Minister at Berne was instructed by Her Majesty's Government to enquire what in their opinion was the official text of the Additional Articles as they then stood, and whether they had been formally accepted in that shape by all or any of the Signatory and acceding Powers to the Convention of 1864 (**No. 413**); when the following reply was returned.

M. Schenck to Mr. F. O. Adams.

(Translation.)

“ M. le Ministre,

Berne, 12th May, 1885.

“ By a note of the 4th instant you have made known to us the uncertainty in which Her Britannic Majesty's Government finds itself in regard to the official text and the obligatory force of the Additional Articles to the Geneva Convention of the 22nd August, 1864 (**No. 413**), for the amelioration of the condition of the Wounded in Armies in the field, and at the same time you do us the honour to ask our opinion on a certain number of points relating to those Additional Articles, and mentioned in a Memorandum which accompanied the note.

“ In reply to your request we hasten to place before you the following considerations, in the hope that they will be of such a nature as to leave the Royal Government in no doubt as to the point of view we have taken up, in order to appreciate the questions raised.

“ According to the ideas of the Representatives of the Powers at the International Conference at Geneva, in which the Additional Articles of the 20th October, 1868 (**No. 413**), were drawn up and signed, those Articles did not constitute a definitive Diplomatic Act, before being adopted or rejected, but rather a project susceptible as such of ulterior modification by the Governments interested. In transmitting an authentic copy of it to the Governments of the States Signatory of the Convention of 1864 (**No. 365**), the Federal Council did not declare

itself in this respect; its action having been confined to the execution of § 15, m. 2, of the Additional Articles (**No. 413**).

“In reply to this communication, the Governments of France, England, Russia, and the Netherlands successively proposed amendments, enlargements, and modifications, which the Federal Council brought, in each particular case, to the knowledge of the Signatory States. Not one of the latter raised the question as to whether or not the right of amendment should be actually admitted.

“Your Excellency is doubtless not ignorant of the contents of the Circular of the Federal Council of the 16th December, 1868, by which we communicated to the interested Powers the amendment, proposed by the Imperial Government of France, to § 9 of the Additional Articles, and the Declaration of the same Government that it should not consider the said Articles as having force and vigour, until all the States which had adhered to the Geneva Convention should have adopted them, with the amendment proposed by it. The French Government referred to the declarations made by its Delegates at the Geneva Conference, which it considered as being in conformity with diplomatic rules, and said that it could not be contested that Additional Articles to an International Convention could be concluded only with the assent of all the Contracting Powers, whether they had signed the principal Convention, or had subsequently adhered to it.

“The Federal Council still, however, believed that it ought to abstain from pronouncing its opinion, and to confine itself to fulfilling the character of intermediary, simply. It consequently brought the declaration of the French Government to the knowledge of the States, while expressing a hope that all subsequent discussion of the question raised would be avoided by unanimous declarations of adhesion.

“The outbreak of the Franco-German War and the new propositions of Russia, who seemed to subordinate its accession to the modification of § 12 of the Additional Articles, together with the negative attitude of Germany towards those propositions, prevented that hope from being realized.

“We cannot here do better than refer you to our Circular to the Powers of the 8th July, 1874, which sets forth at great length what was at that date the situation of the Additional Articles:

“In that Circular the Federal Council said amongst other

things that the Cabinet of Berlin, having been asked to be good enough to communicate its decision relative to the ratification of those Articles, had replied that it considered the question as being connected with the new project proposed by Russia of an International Convention to regulate the laws and customs of war, and it therefore considered it advisable to wait for the result of that Conference which was to meet soon at Brussels.

"The Brussels Conference did not advance the solution of the question.* When the examination arrived of those Articles of the Russian project which treated of the same subject as the Geneva Convention (**No. 365**), the Conference thought that it should not touch that Convention, it being an International Act. Likewise it did not wish to approach the question of the Additional Articles; but, after an exchange of ideas upon the modifications to which to subject the Geneva Convention, it confined itself to deferring the different opinions expressed at the examination by the interested Governments in view of the modifications and improvements that might be introduced, by common consent, into the Convention.

"In its Report to the Federal Chambers upon its administration during the year 1874, the Federal Council expressed itself upon the bearing of that declaration as follows:—'In forecasting thus the revision of this Act,' said the Report, 'a revision which must necessarily comprehend the points upon which the Additional Articles bear, the Conference carried the question into a new phase, so that it appears that the Additional Articles should for the moment be abandoned, but that the special dispositions which are embodied in them should be taken up again later, on the occasion of a work with a more general bearing.'

Neutrality of Ambulances. Substitution by Turkey of the Crescent for the Cross.

"Finally, in November, 1876, the Sublime Porte having announced to us the formation of ambulances, for which the Crescent had been substituted for the Red Cross as the sign of neutrality, and having asked us to take the necessary measures in order that that sign might be admitted and respected by the Powers Signatory of the Geneva Convention (**No. 365**) in the same degree and under the same conditions as the Red Cross; we hastened to bring that communication to the knowledge of the States Signatory of the Convention, asking them to let us

* See "State Papers," vol. lxx, p. 1004, and vol. lxxi, p. 442.

know their opinion respecting the proposition (Circular of 29th November, 1876).

“Most of the Governments saw in the substitution of the Crescent for the Red Cross a modification of the Geneva Convention (**No. 365**) (Art. VII), a modification which should be agreed to by all the States which had adhered to the Convention, and should be drawn up in the solemn form of an International Diplomatic Act, concluded and signed by the Representatives of those States.

“Negotiations were then entered into between Russia and Turkey, by our agency, for the purpose of bringing about a provisional *modus vivendi* during the continuance of the war. The result of those negotiations was brought to the knowledge of the States by note of the Federal Council of 15th June, 1877. In that note the Federal Council asked the Contracting States to take note of the arrangement agreed upon by Turkey and Russia, but still insisted upon its absolutely provisional character.

“After that a new difficulty arose. Russia demanded the association with the Crescent of a distinct sign upon the Turkish ambulance depôts, in order that the national colours of the Ottoman Empire might be distinguished, and declared that this point formed one of the essential conditions of the provisional *modus vivendi* accepted by the Imperial Cabinet. On the 21st July, 1877, the Federal Council brought this communication to the knowledge of the Government of the Sublime Porte, asking it to make known the determination it should consider necessary to take, but up to the present no reply to this has been received.

Proposed Additional Articles form no part of Geneva Convention.

“It seems to us, as a result of all the preceding observations, that the Additional Articles to the Convention of 22nd August, 1864 (**No. 413**), for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field, cannot be considered as forming an integral part of that Convention, or as being, like the latter, an International Treaty in force.

“In fact, there can be no question as to the entry into force of an international instrument, the text of which has not yet been settled, and to which all the Contracting Parties have not yet adhered. There is then no official text of these Articles, and, equally, the proposal of Turkey respecting the modification of Article VII of the Convention has not received sanction.

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"This view seems to us to agree in all respects with that of the Signatory Powers as manifested at the Brussels Conference,* and in the replies given to the proposals of the Sublime Porte as we have just mentioned. The Federal Council, besides, has had an opportunity of expressing itself clearly in its reply to the demand made by the United States of America to accede to the Geneva Convention (No. 365), as also to the Additional Articles to that Convention (No. 413).

"That reply having been brought to the knowledge of all the Governments interested, particularly of that of Her Britannic Majesty, by the note of 9th June, 1882, we consider it sufficient to refer simply to the contents of that note.

"Hoping thus to have fully replied to the questions which your Excellency has done us the honour to address to us in the name of your Government, we are, &c.,

"In the name of the Federal Council,"

SCHENK, President of the Confederation.

SCHUTZMANN, Vice-Chancellor.

Additional List of Accessions to the Geneva Convention of 22nd August, 1864 (No. 365).†

Peru	22nd April, 1880.
United States	1st March, 1882.
Bulgaria	1st March, 1884.
Japan	6th June, 1886.
Luxemburg	5th October, 1888.
Congo Free State	27th December, 1888.

PROTOCOLS OF CONFERENCES and PROCES-VERBAUX of the Meetings at Paris of the Suez Canal International Commission. Paris, 30th March to 13th June, 1885.

ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOLS AND OF PROCÈS-VERBAUX.

PROTOCOL.

No. 1. M. Billot elected President. M. Cogordan and Hon. F. H. Villiers appointed Secretaries. Exchange of ideas as to limits of discussion. Appointment of Sub-Commission. *Egyptian* Delegate to attend sittings of Sub-Commission with a consultative voice. Secrecy to be observed. Paris, 30th March, 1885.

* See "State Papers," vol. lxxv, p. 1004, and vol. lxxvi, p. 442.

† See also "Hertslet's Treaties," vol. xiv, pp. 1163, 1164, and vol. xvii, p. 1234.

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Annex 1.—Draft of Treaty relative to free passage of the Suez Canal presented by the Delegates of France.

Annex 2.—Draft of Conventional Act relative to free use of the Suez Canal laid before the International Commission by the Delegates of Great Britain.

PROCÈS-VERBAL.

No. 1. M. Barrère elected President of Sub-Commission. Appointment of Hon. F. Villiers and M. Soulange-Bodin as Secretaries. Commission separate for some days to enable Delegates to study drafts of *French Treaty* and of *English Treaty* before discussion.

Paris, 30th March, 1885.

No. 2. Proposal to discuss *French Draft* opposed by *British Delegate*, who urges that the *British Draft* should be taken first, but gives way subsequently on satisfactory explanation being given to the effect that Lord Granville's Circular of 23rd January, 1883, is considered the basis of the deliberations and that the two drafts

The Delegates were :—

For Great Britain	..	Sir Julian Pauncefote. Sir Charles Rivers Wilson.
„ Austria-Hungary	..	Baron de Haan.
„ Egypt	Fakhry Pasha.
„ France	M. Billot. M. Camille Barrère.
„ Germany	M. de Derenthall. Baron de Rotenham.
„ Italy	M. Ressiman. M. Pierantoni (after 1st sitting).
„ Netherlands	..	M. Jansen (1st sitting only). M. Asser (down to 4th sitting). M. Ruysenaers (5th and 6th sittings only).
„ Russia	M. Hitrovo.
„ Spain	M. Angel Ruata. M. de Ortega Morejon (after 1st sitting).
„ Turkey	Tewfik Bey. Husny Pasha.

The members appointed to form the Sub-Commission were :—

For Great Britain	..	Sir Julian Pauncefote. Sir C. Rivers Wilson (after the 2nd sitting).
„ Austria-Hungary	..	Baron de Haan.
„ France	M. Barrère.
„ Germany	M. de Derenthall.
„ Italy	M. Ressiman. M. Pierantoni (after the 3rd sitting).
„ Russia	M. Hitrovo.
„ Turkey	Husny Pasha.

With the addition after the 7th meeting of:

For The Netherlands	..	M. Jansen.
„ Spain	M. Ruata.

For the full text of these Protocols and Procès-Verbaux, see Parliamentary Paper, "Egypt, No. 19 (1885)."

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are developments of it. Discussion of Preamble and Article I of proposed Treaty. On representation of *British* Delegate a reservation is made with regard to the means for ensuring the free passage of the Canal being respected.

Paris, 13th April, 1885.

- No. 3. Further discussion as to basis of deliberations. *British* Delegate insists that the Commission should not travel beyond the eight bases of Lord Granville's Circular, but will not oppose the discussion of other subjects. Discussion of wording of Article concerning Fresh-water Canal. Decision postponed until Commission has heard M. de Lesseps. Discussion of Article II of *French* Draft, respecting non-erection of fortifications, &c.

Paris, 17th April, 1885.

- No. 4. M. de Lesseps heard with regard to protection of Fresh-water Canal and plant and buildings of Canal Company, and Articles drawn up and agreed to. Continuation of discussion respecting non-erection of fortifications and military servitude.

Paris, 20th April, 1885.

- No. 5. Continuation of discussion of prohibition to erect fortifications to threaten the Canal and prohibition of a military occupation of the banks of the Canal. *British* Delegate asks that the fortifications question may be settled without touching the question of occupation, but Commission decide otherwise. Article subsequently accepted by all the Delegates.

Paris, 22nd April, 1885.

- No. 6. Discussion of Article V of *French* Draft, respecting free passage to ships of war of belligerents.

Paris, 24th April, 1885.

- No. 7. Discussion of question of passage of prizes through the Canal. Article adopted to the effect that prizes shall be regarded as vessels of war by belligerents.

Paris, 27th April, 1885.

- No. 8. Discussion and adoption of Article VII, respecting reimbursement of cost of repair of damage.

Paris, 29th April, 1885.

- No. 9. Discussion and adoption of Article VIII, respecting non-maintenance of war vessels in Canal and maintenance of "stationnaires" at *Port Said* and *Suez*.

Paris, 1st May, 1885.

- No. 10. Discussion and adoption, with certain reservations, of Article IX, respecting defence of *Egypt* and maintenance of public order.

Paris, 4th May, 1885.

- No. 11. Discussion of Article IV of the *French* Draft, respecting formation of International Commission of Supervision. Objections of *British* Delegate. Discussion adjourned.

Paris, 6th May, 1885.

- No. 12. Adoption of Articles VIII and IX of *French* Draft, which become Articles XIII and XIV of Draft Act of Commission. Rights of Sultan and Khedive; and invitation to States to accede to Convention.

Paris, 8th May, 1885.

- No. 13. *British* proposal that, in lieu of Commission of Supervision (see Procès-Verbal No. 11), the *Egyptian* Government shall take

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measures to insure observance of provisions of present Treaty, with the right of calling on the Sublime Porte and Powers Signatory of Declaration of 17th March, 1885,* for assistance if needed. Reply of *German* and *Russian* Delegates in favour of Commission of Supervision, which opinion is shared by the President. Discussion eventually adjourned.

Paris, 11th May, 1885.

- No. 14. *British* Delegate, in the absence of instructions, cannot give effect to the opinion of the majority in favour of the Commission of Supervision. Discussion of Article VI of *French* Draft, to become Article IX of Final Draft, respecting observance of the Treaty. Proposed wording read by President. *Turkish* counter-proposal. Discussion adjourned. Paris, 13th May, 1885.

- No. 15. Discussion on Article XI resumed. *Russian* proposal to alter numbering of Articles not adopted. Article XI then agreed to, subject to *British* and *Russian* reservations. Article IX, respecting defence of *Egypt* and maintenance of order, also adopted, subject to *British* reservation. Part of Article II of *French* Draft postponed from third sitting considered and adopted as Article XII, subject to approval of Governments. Adoption of Article XV, to the effect that engagements resulting from Treaty are not to be limited by term of Canal Company's Concessions.

Paris, 15th May, 1885.

- No. 16. Draft Treaty read. Thanks to Secretaries and to President.

Paris, 19th May, 1885.

Annex.—Draft Treaty for free use of the Suez Canal.

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- No. 2. Reopening of Full Commission. Address by President. Discussion and adoption of Preamble of Treaty. Articles I, II, III, IV, and V read and adopted. Discussion of Article VI, Landing of Troops, &c., in Canal. *British* objections and counter-wording. Discussion adjourned. Paris, 4th June, 1885.

Annex.—Report to International Commission on work of Sub-Commission, intrusted with preparation of a draft Treaty for guaranteeing free use of the Suez Canal.

- No. 3. Discussion of Article VI resumed. Article adopted, subject to *British* reservations. Article VII adopted. Article VIII of Draft, respecting payment of cost of repair of damage, suppressed. Article IX of Draft adopted and becomes Article VIII. Discussion of Article IX (formerly Article X), respecting Commission of Supervision. *British* and *Italian* amendments. Claim of *Netherlands* and *Spain* to be represented on Commission to be reserved for consideration of Powers. Further *British* amendment. Discussion adjourned. Articles X to XVI (formerly XI to XVII) adopted, with certain modifications and reservations.

Paris, 8th June, 1885.

* "Hertslet's Treaties," vol. xvii, p. 349.

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No. 4. Discussion of *Russian* reservations made in the Sub-Commission with reference to the question of territorial waters, and of *Russian* proposal for the neutralisation of part of the *Red Sea*.

Paris, 9th June, 1885.

No. 5. Discussion of *Russian* suggestions with reference to the extension of the zone of territorial waters. Article V eventually adopted, subject to *British* amendment (supported by *Italian* Delegate), and to *Russian* reservation.

Paris, 11th June, 1885.

No. 6. Discussion of Article IX resumed after postponement from third sitting. Article as originally drafted adopted, subject to further consideration of Powers. Article X, after further modification, adopted by all the Delegates except Sir J. Pauncefoot. New Article respecting sanitary measures proposed and adopted subject to *British* reservation. Second reading of Draft Treaty. Presentation by *British* Delegates of text of Draft Treaty, such as they are ready to accept it. Thanks to Secretaries and President.

Paris, 13th June, 1885.

Annex.—Draft Treaty for insuring free use of the Suez Canal.

CONVENTION between Her Britannic Majesty and His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey, relative to Egyptian Affairs. Signed at Constantinople, 24th October, 1885.*

ART.

TABLE.

Preamble.

1. A British and a Turkish High Commissioner to be sent to *Egypt*.
2. Tranquillization of the *Soudan* by Pacific Measures.
3. Reorganization of *Egyptian* Army.
4. Examination of all Branches of *Egyptian* Administration.
5. International Engagements contracted by the Khedive.
6. Conditional withdrawal of British Troops from *Egypt* in a convenient period.
7. Ratifications.

French Text to be binding.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, having agreed to send Commissioners Extraordinary to Egypt with a view to the settlement of

* The correspondence respecting Sir H. Drummond Wolff's Special Mission to Constantinople on the Affairs of Egypt, from 5th August to 10th November, 1885, and the French text of this Convention, were laid before Parliament in February, 1886. "Egypt, No. 1 (1886)."

Egyptian affairs, have resolved to conclude a Convention, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries for this purpose :

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the Right Honourable Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, &c., &c., &c., Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan on a Special Mission having particular reference to the affairs of Egypt ;

And His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Méhemmed Saïd Pasha, His Minister for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c. ;

Who, after having exchanged their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles, adopted upon the basis and within the limits of the Imperial Firmans now in force :—

A British and a Turkish High Commissioner to be sent to Egypt.

ART. I. Her Britannic Majesty and His Imperial Majesty the Sultan will respectively send a High Commissioner to Egypt.

Tranquillization of the Soudan by Pacific Measures.

ART. II. The Ottoman High Commissioner will consult with His Highness the Khedive, or with the functionary who shall be designated for that purpose by His Highness, upon the best means for tranquillizing the Soudan by pacific measures.

The Ottoman High Commissioner and His Highness the Khedive will keep the English High Commissioner currently informed of the negotiations, and as the measures to be decided upon form part of the general settlement of Egyptian affairs, they shall be adopted and placed in execution in agreement with the English High Commissioner.

Reorganization of Egyptian Army.

ART. III. The two High Commissioners will reorganize, in concert with His Highness the Khedive, the Egyptian army.

Examination of all Branches of Egyptian Administration.

ART. IV. The two High Commissioners, in concert with His Highness the Khedive, will examine all the branches of the Egyptian Administration, and may introduce into them the

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modifications which they may consider necessary, within the limits of the Imperial Firmans.

International Engagements contracted by the Khedive.

ART. V. The international engagements contracted by His Highness the Khedive will be approved by the Ottoman Government in so far as they shall not be contrary to the privileges granted by the Imperial Firmans.

Conditional withdrawal of British Troops from Egypt in a convenient period.

ART. VI. So soon as the two High Commissioners shall have established that the security of the frontiers and the good working and stability of the Egyptian Government are assured, they shall present a Report to their respective Governments, who will consult as to the conclusion of a Convention regulating the withdrawal of the British troops from Egypt in a convenient period.

*Ratifications.**

ART. VII. The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Constantinople within the space of fifteen days, or sooner if possible.

In faith of which the two Plenipotentiaries have affixed their signatures to it and the seal of their arms.

Done at Constantinople, the twenty-fourth day of the month of October, of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-five.

(L.S.) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

(L.S.) SAÏD.

French Text to be binding.

In proceeding to the signature of the Convention dated this day, the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and Turkey declare that the French text† shall be binding.

Done, in duplicate, the 24th day of October, 1885.

(L.S.) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

(L.S.) SAÏD.

* Ratifications exchanged 24th November, 1885.

† For French version see Parliamentary Paper, "Egypt, No. 1 (1886)," p. 37.

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CONVENTION between the Netherlands and Belgium, respecting the Navigation and Police of the River Meuse. 31st October, 1885.

[This Convention modifies the Regulation of 20th May, 1843,* so far as concerns a part of the River Meuse situated in Belgian Territory.]

DECLARATIONS between France and Belgium, and between France and Luxemburg, modifying Article LXIX of the Boundary Treaty of 28th March, 1820. Paris, 15th January and 31st May, 1886.†

(Translation.)

ART. I. Article LXIX of the Treaty of Limits, signed the 28th March, 1820 (**No. 99**), is replaced by the following stipulation:—

In future, and in the interest of the Two Countries, no construction whatever can be raised, nor any enclosure be established, at less than 10 metres from the Boundary Line, or less than 5 metres from any road, when that road is situated between the Two Countries and the axis of it forms the boundary limit.

ACCESSION of Japan to the Declaration of Paris of 16th April, 1856 (No. 271), respecting Maritime Law. Tokio, 30th October, 1886.

[See "Hertslet's Treaties," vol. xvii, p. 1224. The French Official Notification of this Accession was dated 24th December, 1886.]

* See "State Papers," vol. xxxvii, p. 1294.

† A similar Declaration was signed between France and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg on the same day.

CONVENTION between Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, to secure the restoration to their normal condition of the Streams of Water not navigable by boats or rafts, situated between the two Countries, and for their future maintenance. Brussels, 27th November, 1886.

[See "Moniteur Belge," 16th January, 1887.]

*DESPAICH from The Porte respecting the proceedings of Prince Ferdinand in Bulgaria. Constantinople, 14th August, 1887.**

(Translation.)

Constantinople, 14th August, 1887.

Your Excellency knows the circumstances under which the election of Prince Ferdinand of Coburg as Prince of Bulgaria took place. You are also aware of the declarations made by His Highness, that he would not leave Vienna until his election should have obtained the sanction of the Suzerain Court according to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530), and the consent of the other Signatory Powers.

At the moment when an exchange of views had commenced between the Imperial Government and the Great Powers on the subject of this election, we learned that Prince Ferdinand, contrary to his previous declarations, proposed to leave his residence of Ebenthal for Bulgaria; and this inopportune project made it our duty to address to him, through our Ambassador at Vienna and other intermediaries, strong and repeated advice, engaging him not to depart from the course which he had planned for himself, and which, at various intervals, he had announced to us.

Notwithstanding his above-mentioned declarations, the Prince has thought fit to abandon his original project, and suddenly to leave his residence to go and take possession of the administration of the Principality where he now is.

I consider it superfluous to call the deep and serious attention of the Government to which you are accredited to the gravity of this act, which is as unexpected as it is contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin (No. 530).

In this circumstance, the Sublime Porte, whilst abstaining entirely from any official relations with Prince Ferdinand,

* Laid before Parliament in "Turkey No. 1 (1888)."

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desires to know the point of view from which the Great Powers regard this course of action taken by His Highness, the nature of the instructions which they have given in the matter to their Diplomatic Agents at Sofia, and their views and appreciations concerning the means of solving the question and smoothing the political difficulties which have now arisen.

Be so good as to communicate, and give a copy of this despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and transmit His Excellency's reply to me.

SAÏD.

*BOUNDARY CONVENTION between Austria-Hungary
and Roumania. Signed at Bucharest, ^{25th November}_{7th December}, 1887.
(Accepted by the Roumanian Chamber, ¹/₂ ⁴/₆th December,
1887.)*

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TABLE.

1. Boundary between *Austria-Hungary* and *Roumania*. (Map A.)
 2. Boundary between the *Bucovine* and *Roumania*. (Map B.)
 3. Rectification of the course of the *Suceava*.
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 5. Boundary between *Hungary* and *Roumania*.
 6. Demarkation of the Frontier. (Maps C, D, E.)
 7. Periodical revision of the Frontier.
 8. Common Roads for the service of the Frontier.
 9. Regulations respecting the Maintenance of the Rivers and Streams forming the Frontier.
 10. Rights of Property and Possession.
 11. Daily Use of the Frontier.
 12. Ratifications.
- Protocols 1 and 2. Protocols and Annexes.

[Published in the "Wiener Zeitung," 12th May, 1887.]

*DECLARATION between Belgium and the Netherlands,
respecting the Boundary between their respective States
near the Canal of Terneuze. Brussels, 5th January,
1888.*

(Translation.)

The Government of His Majesty the King of the Belgians and the Government of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, considering, on one hand, that by the terms of Art. V of the

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Treaty concluded on the 5th of November, 1842, between Belgium and the Netherlands (**No. 195**), "the axis of the canal of Terneuze shall continue to form the boundary from the old fort of Saint Antoine to the front of the Netherlands Custom House in the hamlet 'de Stuyver'"; and on the other hand, that that axis has been displaced in consequence of the works executed on the said canal, in conformity with the Convention of the 31st of October, 1879 (page 3251), have agreed upon the following Articles:—

Art. I. The old axis of the canal from Ghent to Terneuze, as it existed before the enlargement of the canal in 1879–1885, shall continue to form the boundary between the two countries.

Art. II. Sections 1, 2, and 3 of Art. CXXVII of the Procès-Verbal describing the delimitation between the kingdoms of Belgium and the Netherlands annexed to the Boundary Convention concluded at Maestricht on the 8th August, 1843 (**No. 196**) are modified in conformity with the descriptive Procès-Verbal drawn up and signed at Sas de Gand on the 31st May, 1886, by the Commissioners of the Two Governments.

That Procès-Verbal, as also the plan in sheets, and the topographical map drawn up by the said Commissioners shall be annexed to the present Declaration, and shall have the same force and value as if they had been actually inserted in it.

In faith of which the Undersigned Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Majesty the King of the Belgians and Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, duly authorized, have signed the present Declaration, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done, in duplicate, at Brussels, the 5th January, 1888.

(L.S.) THE PRINCE DE CHIMAY.

(L.S.) L. GERICKE.

DECLARATION between France and Switzerland, modifying the Convention of 28th December, 1880, regulating the Frontier Fisheries, and abrogating the Arrangement of 9th December, 1884. Berne, 14th April, 1888.

[Published in the French "Journal Officiel" of 1st September, 1888.]

*RUSO-SWEDISH COMMISSION for marking afresh the
Boundary between Sweden and Finland. July 1 to Sep-
tember 1, 1888.*

[THIS boundary was marked in 1820, in execution of the Treaty of 20th November, 1810; but in consequence of the Rivers Tornea and Muonio having altered their course in some places, and of some of the boundary marks having been destroyed or obliterated, the boundary was retraced in 1888, but no important modifications were made by the Boundary Commissioner.]

*TURKISH FIRMAN modifying the Firmans for the
Government of the Island of Crete. 22nd November,
1889.*

(Translation.*)

My most wise Moushir, your Excellency Shakir Pasha, Extraordinary Military Commander and Governor-General *ad interim* in Crete, invested with the Osmanié in diamonds, and the first class Medjidié. May God increase your glory.

By my present High Imperial Firman be it known to you that to increase the welfare and the happiness of the island, as well as to secure the tranquillity and quiet of its inhabitants, being the object of my great solicitude and desire, it has become necessary, in order to attain this important end, to adopt radical measures regulating the budget of the island, and restoring the convenient public order and tranquillity. Notwithstanding that the Government of the island had been placed under special Regulations in consequence of concessions made on the 25th Ramadan, 1284 (10th January, 1868, Appendix, page 3229), 5th Zilcaade, 1295 (25th October, 1878, **No. 535**), and 3rd Zilcaade, 1304, the struggles which some time since have taken place in Crete between political factions have entirely perverted the beneficial purpose of the concessions. All care for the welfare of the island has been entirely forgotten, each political party having done their best to use their power to the detriment of their antagonists, and thus, instead of the prosperity of the island being increased, animosity and selfish objects have taken the lead, and

* Laid before Parliament in "Turkey, No. 2 (1890)."

resulted at last in unpleasant incidents, and general damage to the island and its inhabitants, whilst the native gendarmes, who were the guardians of the public order, have sided with the perturbators thereof. Under these circumstances, besides the Imperial Government having been under the necessity of undergoing cares and expenses in sending my Imperial troops to quell the disturbances, and to maintain the public peace and tranquillity, the Budget has been disarranged in consequence of new posts having been created, and items of expenditure inserted, beyond the real requirements, to such an extent that, in order to re-establish an equilibrium in the finances, a loan of 60,000 liras had to be contracted, and the Imperial Treasury was under the necessity, within the last three years, to grant a loan of 20,000 liras to the Cretan Treasury, besides assisting it by a gift of 2,500 liras, and half the revenue of the Custom-house of the island, amounting to 14,000 liras annually. All these measures were taken with a view to promote the welfare of the inhabitants of Crete, and the progress of the island. Notwithstanding all this, the finances of the island have continued in a critical and perturbed condition. Under these circumstances, it has been judged necessary to give certain directions for the government of the island, to be followed by due modifications in the fore-mentioned Firmans with the object of restoring public order, as well as placing the public finances in a stable condition, and thus re-establish the necessary tranquillity, together with an increase in the riches and general welfare of the island.

1. The political administration of Crete is confided, in conformity with the fore-mentioned Firmans, to a Governor-General, appointed, as hitherto, by us, and the military administration, as well as the keeping of my Imperial fortresses in the island, to a superior military officer. The political administration is separate from the military, but it depends on my Imperial will to transfer, according to circumstances, the political administration to the Military Commander. When the Governor-General happens to be a Mussulman, the Counsellor of the Government-General is to be a Christian, and *vice versâ*, that is to say, when the Governor-General is a Christian, the Government Counsellor is to be a Mussulman. The Counsellor of the Government-General is to be appointed from among the high functionaries of my Empire, in pursuance of an Imperial Order from us, and is in duty bound to submit,

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when required for the consideration of the Governor-General, affairs concerning the administration of the island; to peruse official documents, point out to the Governor-General all those among them which are important and require his sanction, to carry them into execution, to act for him during his absence, and to be a regular member of the Administrative Council. The assistants of the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors will be regular members of the Administrative Councils in their respective districts.

2. The tenure of office of the Governor-General shall have in future no fixed period. As for the other functionaries in the island, whether of a higher or low rank, they shall not be suspended from their posts or dismissed until it is proved that they have committed some injustice calling for their dismissal, or that they are incompetent for the post they hold. On the appointment of functionaries, the preference should be given to those acquainted with the Turkish language. As for some time the salaries of the public functionaries in the island have been decreased without regard to the importance of their offices, it is necessary that the General Assembly should take into consideration the regularization and due increase of salaries, as well as the execution of the necessary reforms concerning the reorganization of the different districts and Communes.

These decisions of the General Assembly are to be submitted, as usual, by the Governor-General to my Sublime Porte, and the orders given on this subject are to be duly executed.

3. As the number of Deputies ordered by the special Firman is out of proportion to the population of the island, whence it follows that an unnecessary outlay is incurred; and as the mode of elections requires a certain modification, it is necessary that the number of Deputies to the General Assembly should be reduced to fifty-seven, of which thirty-five are to be Christians, and twenty-two Mussulmans, according to the recognised proportion as existing between the two creeds.

For the future, it is necessary that the Deputies should be elected by districts; that they should be elected by five electors appointed in each Commune, who shall assemble at the residence of the Governor of their respective districts. The number of Deputies who are to be returned in proportion to its population, and which proportion Christian Deputies shall bear to Mussulman in each district according to the

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respective members of the two creeds, are to be fixed for the first year by the General Administrative Council, and subsequently the General Assembly shall concert special laws for the purpose according to existing custom. As it is mentioned in the Firman of the year 1295 (**No. 535**) that, in order to enact or to modify a law already in existence, exclusively concerning the interests of the island and its internal administration, the existing system shall be maintained, which requires for these purposes a majority of two-thirds of all the Members of the Assembly, and that the decision shall be subsequently submitted to the sanction of my Sublime Porte.

4. As President of the General Assembly, the Governor-General is in duty bound to direct the motions made in the sittings, and to reject any proposals beyond its competence which might be brought forward.

5. It shall only be allowed to appoint as electors persons possessing landed property, being Ottoman subjects, and being no less than 25 years of age; and as Deputies to the General Assembly, persons of no less than 30 years of age, and not holding any administrative or judicial position whatever.

6. The Judges are to be elected as before, except that a list of their names shall be sent to the Ministry of Justice to be confirmed. However, owing to the importance of the offices of President of Tribunals and of Public Prosecutors, these functionaries shall be appointed for life by Imperial Order, and shall only be dismissed in the case of malpractice having been legally proved against them. Their participation in party contests shall be considered as malpractice. In order to improve the Judicial Service, in conformity with the requirements of the island, it is considered essential to discuss and enact locally the necessary modifications, submitting them for the sanction of my Sublime Porte.

7. Although, in conformity with the 12th Article of the Firman of the year 1295 (**No. 535**) for the formation of a corps of gendarmerie, preference was to be given to natives in all appointments made in that corps, nevertheless, because, as before stated, damage instead of advantage having accrued under this system, it is necessary henceforth that this body, according to circumstances, should be recruited among natives of other provinces of my Empire, with the faculty, however, for native Cretans to enter the ranks as simple private.

8. The income allotted to the expenditure of the island shall

belong, as formerly, to the local Treasury ; the half of the surplus which, according to the fore-mentioned Imperial Firmans, is appointed to my Imperial Treasury, is granted to the Local Government for the benefit of works of public utility and instruction. The Customs revenue, which is reserved to assist in the maintenance of my Imperial troops quartered in the island for the purpose of securing public order, shall entirely belong to my Imperial Treasury, in conformity with the Firmans bearing dates 1284 (Appendix, page 3229) and 1295 (No. 535). The olive crop, which is the principal product of the island, being abundant every second year, there is consequently a great difference found between the income estimated for in the Budget and the actual yearly receipts. Therefore, in order to avoid this inconvenience, it is necessary to take as basis the produce of the tithe during three abundant and three deficient years, and to apportion the average on the number of inhabitants of the villages.

For the application of this system on a fair manner, it is necessary that the General Assembly should fix the details, so that the charges should be apportioned to the real amount of product which shall be ascertained and fixed by that body. With regard to the framing of the Budget, it is necessary to inscribe in the expenditure, first, the salaries and all charges connected with each branch of the service, then the equivalent of the tithes from Vacouf villages, after which shall be added similar indispensable expenses. The balance to be expended in defraying the expenses of works and establishments of general utility, and for educational purposes. Should this balance be insufficient to meet the indispensable works of public utility, as Cretans are not liable to military service, or to exemption tax ; as they are not subject to any tax on handicraft, or on landed property, similar to those which are levied in other provinces of the Empire ; and as in Crete sheep and goats pay only 9 paras, which is a trifle as compared to the taxation under this head in other places of my Empire, it is necessary that the General Assembly should devise new means for imposing in an equitable manner a tax on sheep and goats, so that the regular expenditure should not exceed the income, creating obstacles to the service at large. It is, however, necessary that due permission should be applied for to my Sublime Porte, in order that the revenues derived from the new taxes should be duly applied to the intended purposes of public utility.

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9. As the duty of keeping the different towns and boroughs in cleanliness and good order devolves upon each individual Commune, should the funds at the disposal of the Communal authorities—such moneys, for instance, as are obtained by fees levied on contracts for rent, on constructions for cleaning the towns, on petroleum, and on slaughter-houses—be found insufficient for the necessary local arrangements, it is the duty of the General Assembly to establish, according to custom, some further Communal taxes, in order to provide the means of maintaining the Communes in a fit and proper condition.

10. All the privileges and concessions granted by the fore-mentioned Firmans, and which are not in contravention with the present Firman, are maintained as heretofore. Amnesty is to be proclaimed for those accused of political offences, excepting those who have been actually condemned by court-martial up to the date of the publication of the present Firman, those who acted as leaders in the disturbances, and those who are guilty of offences at common law.

The foregoing Articles were discussed in, and adopted by, my Council of Ministers, were submitted to my high consideration, were sanctioned by my High Imperial Order, and the present Firman was issued by my Imperial Divan. In consequence whereof you, the forementioned Moushir, as soon as you receive my present Imperial Firman, you shall proclaim and make known to all my subjects in the island at large my Imperial benefits and favours which I thus confer upon them, and you shall take care that this Firman is duly inscribed in the archives, using all your endeavours in order that its contents should be fully and completely executed.

Written on the 1st Rebi-ul-Akir, 1307 (22nd November, 1889).

AGREEMENT between Great Britain and Germany, for the Cession of the Island of Heligoland to Germany. Signed at Berlin, 1st July, 1890.

ART. XII. 1. Subject to the assent of the British Parliament,* the sovereignty over the Island of Heligoland, together with its dependencies, is ceded by Her Britannic Majesty to His Majesty the Emperor of Germany.

* See Act 53 & 54 Vict., c. 32, 1890.

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Nationality.

2. The German Government will allow to all persons, natives of the territory thus ceded, the right of opting for British nationality by means of a declaration to be made by themselves, and, in the case of children under age, by their parents or guardians, which must be sent in before the 1st of January, 1892.

Military and Naval Service.

3. All persons, natives of the territory thus ceded, and their children born before the date of the signature of the present agreement, are free from the obligation of service in the military and naval forces of Germany.

Native Laws and Customs.

4. Native laws and customs now existing will, as far as possible, remain undisturbed.

Customs Tariff.

5. The German Government binds itself not to increase the Customs Tariff at present in force in the territory thus ceded until the 1st January, 1910.

Property of Private Persons and Corporations. Lloyd's Right of Signalling.

6. All rights to property which private persons or existing Corporations have acquired in Heligoland, in connection with the British Government, are maintained; obligations resulting from them are transferred to His Majesty the Emperor of Germany. It is understood that the above term, "rights to property," includes the right of signalling now enjoyed by Lloyd's.

British Fishermen.

7. The rights of British fishermen with regard to anchorage in all weathers, to taking in provisions and water, to making repairs, to transshipment of goods, to the sale of fish, and to the landing and drying of nets, remain undisturbed.

Berlin, 1st July, 1890.

EDWARD B. MALET.
H. PERCY ANDERSON.
v. CAPRIVI.
K. KRAUEL.

[An Act of Parliament was passed on the 4th August, 1890, to carry this Agreement into effect. 53 & 54 Vict., c. 32.]

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[The following arrangements were described by the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Calypso," as having been carried out in connection with the Official transfer of the Island of Heligoland to German hands on the 9th August, 1890:—

A Bluejacket Guard of Honour of fifty men, under Lieutenant Pakenham, and the entire Marine Detachment, was landed at 1.30 P.M., the Bluejacket Guard marching to the flagstaff in the Government House grounds, while the Marines Guard remained on the pier to receive the German Governor. Captain Metaxa landed at the pier with three Officers and Lieutenant Commanding Sanderson, at 1.45 P.M., meeting there His Excellency Governor Barkly and the principal official residents.

At 2.15 P.M. the German Governor arrived in the "Pfeil" despatch vessel, escorted by the "Victoria" sloop. The last-named ship fired a 21-gun salute, which was returned by "Calypso," and a 17-gun salute fired from "Calypso" and "Victoria," when the German Governor left the despatch-vessel, and landed at 2.45 P.M., being saluted by our Guard of Honour of Marines, and received by the above-named Officials and Officers.

A procession was formed, proceeding to flagstaff, Government House, where the official transfer of Heligoland took place between the two Governors. Governor Barkly then directed Captain Metaxa to order the German flag to be hoisted, which was done, until the German flag was side by side with the British, the Bluejacket Guard, under Lieutenant Pakenham, presenting arms, and the "Calypso" and "Victoria" firing a salute of 21 guns.

The official party then entered Government House, going thence to the Conversation Hall, where a banquet was served. The Bluejacket Guard returned on board for supper, the Marines on board "Wildfire" (lying a short distance from the pier).

Shortly before 6 P.M. the Marines were landed on the pier head, and at 6 P.M. a procession was formed, the two Governors leading, to the pier head. The Marines saluted, and Governor Barkly embarked with Captain Metaxa in the galley (being towed by the steam pinnace), and flying his flag, which, on shoving off, was saluted with 17 guns by the "Calypso" and "Victoria." Reaching the ship at 6.30 P.M., Captain Metaxa shifted berth, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles further out, off Fairway Buoy. The Bluejacket Guard were landed as before, proceeding to Government House, when,

at sunset, the British and German flags were lowered together. The men landed returned to "Calypso" by 10.30 P.M., boats were hoisted in, and Captain Metaxa sailed for Sheerness at 11.40 P.M., having on board as passengers the late Governor of Heligoland, Mrs. Barkly, and maid.]

SEPARATION of LUXEMBURG from the NETHERLANDS, 23rd November, 1890.

[On the 23rd November, 1890, His Majesty William III, King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxemburg, died, when the Union between the Netherlands and Luxemburg, as established by the Family Compact of 30th June, 1783, and confirmed by European Treaties (see Index, Vol. III, pages 2245—2248), terminated, and, in virtue of Article III of the Constitution, Adolphus, Duke of Nassau, ascended the throne of Luxemburg and assumed the government of the Grand Duchy.]

GERMAN LAW respecting the Union of Heligoland with the German Empire. Berlin, 15th December, 1890.

(Translation.)

WE, William, &c., &c., in the name of the Empire, the Federal Council and the Reichstag having given their consent thereto, decree the following:—

§ 1. The Island of Heligoland with its Dependencies enters into the Confederated Empire.

The Empire gives its consent to the incorporation of the Island with the State of Prussia.

§ 2. The Constitution of the Empire (**No. 444**), with the exception of § 6, respecting customs and trade, shall come into force upon the Island on the day of its incorporation with the State of Prussia. Prussia will meet the expenses incurred by the Empire, on behalf of the territory of the Island, by payment of a contribution in accordance with the terms of Article XXXVIII, paragraph 3, of the Constitution of the Empire (**No. 444**).

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§ 3. All persons of Heligoland origin, and their children born before the 11th August, 1890, are relieved of the duty of military service.

§ 4. The Election Law for the German Reichstag comes into force also on the day mentioned in § 2. The Island will be admitted into an elective district upon the decision of the Bundesrath.

§ 5. It shall be decided by Imperial Decree, with approval of the Federal Council, to what extent the provisions contained in §§ 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 of the Law, respecting the naval ports of the Empire, shall be applied in regard to the Island and its waters.

§ 6. It shall be decided by Imperial Decree, with approval of the Federal Council, at what date the remaining Imperial Laws, passed before the day mentioned in § 2, shall come into force whether entirely or partially.

Whenever the preservation of the Laws and Customs existing upon the Island require it, special provisions may be issued in the way indicated in paragraph 1 in the place of particular portions of the Imperial Acts to be introduced. Such provisions will not remain in force beyond the 31st December, 1893.

§ 7. This Law comes into force upon its publication.

Given under our hand and seal, &c., &c.

Berlin Schloss, the 15th December, 1890.

(L.S.) WILLIAM.

VON BOETTICHER.

PROVISIONAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS between Bulgaria and certain European Powers. 1889, 1890.

[A Provisional Commercial Agreement was entered into between Great Britain and Bulgaria, on the 14th-26th November, 1889;* and similar Agreements have since been entered into between the German, French, Swiss, and Bulgarian Governments.]

* See Parliamentary Paper, "Commercial, No. 7 (1890)."

LIST OF TREATIES, &c.

Concluded between Great Britain and Foreign Powers for
the Maintenance of the Peace of Europe.

1876 to 1891.

[For a List of Similar Treaties, &c., concluded between **1814** and
1875, see Vol. III, page 2075.]

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